

HISTORY
OF
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D. A. W. PERKINS.

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HISTORY OF

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FROM ITS ORGANIZATION TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY D. A. W. PERKINS.

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OF
FORT WAYNE AND ALLEN COUNTY, IND.

1897:
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TO THE OLD SETTLERS OF O'BRIEN COUNTY,
WITH WHOM THE WRITER HAS, FOR A QUARTER CENTURY,

BORNE THE BURDEN

AND HEAT OF THE DAY, AND SHARED

LIFE'S ALTERNATE EXPERIENCES OF JOY AND SORROW,

THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY

DEDICATED.

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PREFACE.

It is thirty-six years since O'Brien County was organized, and twenty-five years, since the writer of these pages became a resident. It was thought best to write its history, for, as the years go on apace, much that pertains to its early settlement will be lost to oblivion, unless rescued, before all of its early settlers pass on to the silent majority.

Compared with most of the counties of Iowa, O'Brien is, after all, still young in the years of its organization, for, as a matter of municipal or governmental history, it is not a long stretch of time, since there was broken the first furrow of its soil, and since the smoke from its first cabin, curled to the astonished clouds.

There is herein, no attempt at literary proficiency or distinction. It is only a desire to tell the simple unvarnished tale; to write such facts as shall constitute a record of what has gone before, and up to the present date, from which point some future historian may continue the history, when we, who were active participants in its early struggles, shall have passed away.

THE NAME.

In 1850, the Iowa State Legislature appointed a committee, for the purpose of giving names to fifty of its counties. This committee in its various selections, desirous of honoring the patriots of Ireland, named some of its counties after these, among which is Emmett county, after Robert Emmett, and Mitchell county, after John Mitchell.

O'Brien county was named after William Smith O'Brien, who was born in 1803, and died in 1864. He was the contemporary, and the coadjutor of Daniel O'Connell. He was a man of marked ability, and eminent and loyal, in his devotion to his native country. The prefix O is patronymic, as O'Brien, is significant as a descendant of Brien. The name of the county has a classical sound, and in connection with its origin, and the brave spirit of its namesake, is well bestowed.

LAWS PERTAINING TO ITS ORGANIZATION.

Section 27 of Chapter 9 of the laws of the Third General Assembly, created a new county called Waukau, which is the present county of Woodbury.

Chapter 8 of the laws of the Fourth General Assembly, approved January 12, 1853, entitled, "An Act Organizing Certain Counties Therein Named," provides for the organization of the County of Waukau, and the holding of a special election for that purpose.

And Section 14 of said Chapter reads as follows:

"Section 14. That for revenue, election and judicial purposes the counties of Ida, Sac, Buena Vista, Cherokee, Plymouth, Sioux, O'Brien, Clay, Dickinson, Osceola and Buncomb, are hereby attached to Waukau, and the election for said county shall be held at Sargeant's Bluff, and as many

other places as the organizing sheriff may designate in his notice of election."

Thomas L. Griffey was organizing sheriff of the county of Waukau.

Chapter 12 of the laws of the Fourth General Assembly, approved January 12, 1853, entitled, "An Act in Relation to New Counties," provides the manner in which citizens of an unorganized county may secure the organization of their county, by application to the county judge of the county, to which such organized county is attached, and also provides for establishing the county seat, notice of election, canvass of returns and qualifications of officers elected.

And Section 5 of said Chapter provides, that the name of the county of Waukau shall be changed to Woodbury.

Under these provisions of law, a petition was signed by the legal voters of O'Brien county. The petition was duly presented to the county judge of Woodbury county, and the following order made:

COUNTY COURT,
Woodbury Co., Iowa, }
January 25th, 1860. }

Whereas, a petition has been presented to this court, signed by Hannibal Waterman and seven other citizens of O'Brien county, Iowa, and J. C. Furber having made oath that the signatures to said petition, are a majority of the legal voters of said county, and

Whereas, the said petitioners ask that the said O'Brien county may be organized in accordance with the provisions of law upon the subject.

Now, therefore, I, John P. Allison, county judge of Woodbury county, in the state of Iowa, do hereby order,

First: That the county of O'Brien, in the state of Iowa, be, and the same is hereby organized, from and after the twenty-fifth day of January, A. D. 1860.

Second: That an election be held in O'Brien county, and state aforesaid, at the dwelling house of Hannibal Waterman,

on Monday, the sixth day of February, A. D. 1860, for the purpose of electing county officers, and that J. C. Furber act as one of the judges of said election.

Third: It is ordered that J. C. Furber act as organizing sheriff, and that he post notices in three of the most public places in said O'Brien county, stating the time and place of holding said election, at least ten days prior to the election aforesaid, and make due return of his doings to this court.

JOHN P. ALLISON,

County Judge.

This order resulted in the appointment of J. C. Furber as organizing sheriff, and an election was ordered to be held at the house of Hannibal Waterman, on the sixth day of February, 1860, at which time certain officers were elected to hold until the next general election, and this completed the county's organization.

HISTORY OF O'BRIEN COUNTY.

CHAPTER I.

History is always interesting. While the great world at the present time, in its never ceasing and restless struggle, has little to do, but to bend its nervous energies in the various avenues of business, and to gratify ambition, still, in the human heart there is a love for that which has gone before. There is a longing for the ever varied and shifting scenes, which with their actors have made up the drama of life, but upon whose exit the curtain has long since dropped, and the lights extinguished. Into that realm of events which constitutes the neglected and seemingly forgotten past, the mind of man enters with peculiar fascination, and we ponder them with absorbing interest.

It is not that alone that is interesting, which makes up the history of the great world itself, in its different ages, and its various climes.

The history of our experiences, and the experiences of those around us, which have come under our own observation, are equally cherished, for these invite the heart into other fields of fond recollection and affection, and more especially, when one after another of the actors with whom each are a part, are dropping from the ranks, and passing out through that mysterious valley, which we call the shadow of death.

There ought to be the strongest ties of feeling between the old settlers of a country, who have remained with it, and borne the burden and heat of the day, and there is. By reason of the weakness of human nature, there may be sometimes a hos-

tile feeling over some petty and insignificant affair between neighbors, but, as a rule, the surviving settlers of a new country, whose experiences run back quarter of a century, are attached to each other; it would be unnatural to be otherwise. Age may bring upon us its infirmities; it may palsy the limbs, and gather the crows' feet insidiously about the eyebrows, but as long as the faculties remain, we shall ever retain a feeling of fond recollection of the scenes and incidents of other days, and of those who shared with us its experiences, its joys, and sorrows. And then again, people who bear the same misfortunes together, become united in each others' interest, and are bound together.

Every new county has to wrestle in the throes of doubt and difficulty. The incoming population are generally of moderate means, and come for the purpose of building a home, and acquiring a competence. The first acts of settlement are liable to absorb the little that was brought with them, and for a time, it is a struggle with hardship, and sometimes for the necessities of life.

In the spring of 1856, O'Brien county was without a settler. Its fair and fertile prairie land, was not disturbed with cultivation. It was the home of the Indian, though none of this dusky tribe had their habitation within its borders, still, it was theirs on which to roam at their own sweet will, but under certain restrictions by the government. Hannibal H. Waterman, with his wife, Hannah H., and one child, Emily A., left their former residence in Bremer county, this state, to go further west, and on July following, landed in O'Brien county with two yoke of oxen, and their household goods.

The government land had not yet been surveyed, so that Mr. Waterman exercised his right as a squatter, and followed up with a filing afterwards, when the government land office was opened at Sioux City. The quarter section upon which he filed, was the northeast quarter of section 22, township 94, range 39, now Waterman civil township.

Mr. Waterman's first residence was constructed of logs,

which he obtained from the Sioux river, and was 18x22 feet, still upon the claim, but is rapidly falling into decay. The family lived in this first structure until 1860, when they had erected and occupied one more commodious than the first, and continued to occupy this, until 1887, when in April of that year it was burned.

In May, 1857, there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Waterman their daughter Anna, and she was the first white child born in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Waterman still live in the county. Anna, some years ago, married D. W. Kenyon. In 1888 they moved to Woodbine, Iowa, when Anna died on the 16th day of December, 1889.

The winter following Mr. Waterman's adventure into O'Brien county, was lonesome indeed. Far from settlement, and seemingly far from civilization. They lived through the weary and lengthening days of winter with nothing to cheer them, or

to break the monotony of life, save the thought that spring-time was coming, and soon again, their eyes would be gladdened with the sight of green grass, and the beautiful prairie flower, and this gave them a heart of sunshine, even amid the snows of winter. Mr. Waterman had with him a hired man having only one arm, so that as far as he was concerned, might be considered single handed. Just at the approach



H. H. WATERMAN.

of winter, the hired man was started with the oxen on a mission to Ft. Dodge, for 500 pounds of flour and 200 pounds of meal. He returned within a reasonable time for the journey, but was unable to obtain only a few hundred pounds of flour. In December following, the necessities of the household required further supplies, and the hired man with the oxen, were again started out. This time he went to Shelby county, sev-

enty-five miles distant, and his trip was disastrous indeed. The winter of 1856-7 was a hard one, and under certain circumstances, and in a new country, one's experiences often seem beyond human endurance. The hired man with the oxen, upon attempting to return, were snow-bound in Sac county at the home of a farmer, and the poor fellow seemed to have little else to do, but to explore the snow drifts for buried corn raised the year before, and this he did effectually enough while he was there, to keep the four oxen alive. The farmer had an eye to business, and was like many another shark which has preyed upon the misfortunes of others, and has robbed the poor in distress. He demanded one yoke of oxen for the feed, and the hired man left the oxen there and walked home. The oxen when they got to Mr. Waterman's, were illy fitted to go into the work of the season, but they arrived home in the spring of 1857, with the little meagre supply of flour and meal.

The Indians at this time were not supposed to be troublesome. They roamed freely, however, over the stretch of country extending west and north into Minnesota, and no doubt then realized that civilization, if such it is, was pushing them on towards the setting sun. These Indians, in bands of five to twenty, often visited at the Waterman habitation, and their first visit, was the following Sunday after the arrival of Mr. Waterman and his family. Their visits were always friendly; they offered no insult, gave no offense; but an Indian can be friendly, even when the heart of the treacherous savage is filled with intended outrage. In the spring of 1857, a band of about sixty Indians, roaming south from Minnesota, had captured and killed a large number of elk near Smithland, in Woodbury county. The settlers took their guns, and from some false report, the Indians became frightened away, leaving the elk and everything else behind them, and started on their way to Minnesota; the Waterman settlement lay direct in the path of their journey. The Smithland treatment had aroused all their natural proclivities to do evil. They were angered, and the

anger of an Indian meant hostility to the whites. It is a wonder, that when they reached the Waterman household, that they did not, in cold blood and cruelty, murder the entire family, and leave their scarred and scalped bodies lying in blood at their own hearthstone. The settlers near Smithland were blamed for this Indian trouble, as it was generally believed that they made a pretext for taking the guns, and the elk from the Indians. On their way back they stopped at Mr. Waterman's place, and seven of these swarthy fellows entered the house. They had been there before in friendly intercourse, but now, they were bent upon mischief. They appropriated the loose property around, consisting of some carpenter's tools, compass, and even Mr. Waterman's white shirt. They murmured their feelings of discontent in the jargon of their native tongue, and the climax of their Indian wickedness seemed to be reached, when three of them leveled their guns upon Mr. Waterman, and fired. He was not harmed, however, as the firearms contained only powder. The firing was the result of some resistance shown by Mr. Waterman to their depredations, and, as it finally turned out, there was no intention to kill, there was only a desire to steal from the house, and at the same time to frighten the inmates.



HANNAH H. WATERMAN.

The massacre at Spirit Lake, has long since, become a thrilling part of the history of Northwest Iowa. After leaving Mr. Waterman's house, this band committed some depredations at Peterson, in Clay county, and they were a part of the atrocious gang, which murdered and pillaged on the banks of West Okoboji.

The eastern part of the county is much broken with hills and deep gulches; this is so along the Sioux river and the

Waterman creek, so that an incoming settler who came along, would be most likely to settle where Mr. Waterman did, where fuel was plenty and water accessible, and where there was much shelter, compared with the bleak and unprotected prairie further west.

There soon followed another settler in O'Brien county, who was Fred Fieldman, but better, and generally known as "Dutch Fred."

The writer knew him well, and his peculiar originality was certainly a study. He claimed to have deserted from the army of King William, and felt that his seclusion here, was a matter of safety from the wrath of the Emperor. After the organization of the county, he often remarked, "They all hold office but me, and I am de peeples." In 1873, poor Dutch Fred was taken sick. He was living alone, but when his condition was known to the few around him, he was tenderly cared for. He absolutely refused to have a physician, and insisted, that his time had come, that he was bound to die anyhow, and he did die, and was buried on his claim in Waterman township, where a lonely grave contains all that was mortal of Dutch Fred. He settled and filed upon the north-east quarter of 34-94-39, the same township with Mr. Waterman.

The next real settlers were Daniel W. Inman, and his brother Chester W. They came in the spring of 1868; several others came that summer, and some in the fall. W. H. Baker came in the spring of 1869.

C. W. Inman married Kate Baker, a daughter of W. H. Baker. D. W. Inman moved from the county to Oregon several years ago. C. W. Inman died in 1894. His life was cruelly taken by a neighbor, who was convicted of manslaughter, and sent to the penitentiary two years. Major Inman went into the army of the rebellion a private soldier, and by every grade to that of Major. At the last battle of the war, Bentonville, he commanded the advance picket line of his own, and another regiment, under one of the most terrific fires of musketry on record, and performed his difficult and hazardous

duty with such unflinching bravery, as to command encomiums from Gen. Logan.

Major Inman was like all the rest of us, he had his failings, but was not without his virtues. He had a kind heart and a sympathetic nature. The needy and the unfortunate, never left his door empty handed, when he was able to relieve them, and the highest of all religious virtues were indicated, when the Nazarene said to the young man, "One thing thou lackest, sell what thou hast and give to the poor." Mrs. Kate Inman, wife of the Major, resides in Primghar, with her family, a woman of matronly and refined character, and highly respected.



ANNA WATERMAN.

H. F. Smith, known by the old settlers, and still, known as Hank Smith, came here when a boy from Illinois February 22, 1868, and landed in old O'Brien. He saw all the glories of this primitive village in its early days, when Murry, Crego and the rest of them, were active and flourishing.

Then, O'Brien had been deserted by Moses Lewis and the Tiffy gang, and among those then there, and about there, were the Inman brothers, R. B. Crego, H. H. Waterman, A. Murry, and Andrew Brown, a school teacher.

Mr. Smith was not of age then, and could not take a claim until several years after, so that he worked at various employments principally with a team. In that same year there also came E. T. Parker, but he is hardly known by this name, as we universally call him Ed, and we mention him now in connection with Hank Smith, as they were about the same age, and were the liveliest lads in the village. Ed. and his brother H. F. came together, drove across the state with a horse and buggy, but walked most of the way on account of the roads, and the load they had.

Mr. Parker came for the purpose of trapping, and knew of the country from his uncle W. H. Baker, who had previously come here in the spring of the same year. Soon after Mr. Parker's arrival, he traded the horse and buggy in on a span of mules, and if ever there is any period in the life of a young man, it is when he becomes the owner of a pair of mules.

Hank Smith and Ed. Parker were soon in partnership. Hank had a span of horses, so that between them, they were well equipped for teaming, and there was much of it to do. They really built the first bridge in the county, though thousands of dollars in warrants previous to that, had been issued, which never saw the light of day. The bridge was over a run, east of old O'Brien, and not far from the village.

They cut the native timber, made it into the proper length of logs, of which there were four, stretched across the run on proper rests, and on these, were placed five cross pieces. They then hauled logs to Peterson mill, which were sawed into planks, and with these in place, and the grading completed, the bridge was done, and it was a good job. The boys were two days building it, and got \$2 a day each, so that between them they earned \$8, but this bridge cost the county \$500, as this amount in warrants was issued to the contractor.

In January, 1869, Major Inman and W. H. Baker drove to Sioux City, for a load of merchandise. They had two teams hitched to a sled, but on their return, the snow was so deep, and the weather so bad, they left part of their load on the prairie, and owing to the difficulty of handling two teams in the snow, turned one loose, which strayed from them, was not found for six weeks, and then both horses were nearly dead. After their return to old O'Brien, they sent Ed. Parker and Hank Smith, with Parker's mules hitched to a sled, after the goods left on the prairie. The boys left old O'Brien in the morning, stopped at Cherokee over night, and the next morning started for the deserted goods which were left at whiskey slough, certainly a significant name, but in these days

of advanced settlement and prohibition, has been entirely lost sight of. They distinctly remember the quantity and quality of the grub they had, when they left Cherokee. It consisted of some coffee, sugar, frozen bread, some parboiled spare ribs, and a bottle of red jacket bitters, quite a lay out for pioneers. They found the goods, loaded them up, made a fire with a handful of wood they had taken along, and about sun down, started back. The weather was bad, the cold intense, and the snow deep.

They had to do considerable shoveling all the time to get through the snow; night was settling over them in its darkness; not a house anywhere near, and the snow sifting into their clothing, and blowing about them. The mules had given out, and Ed. Parker said to Hank, he thought their time had come at last, and the chances were exceedingly slim for any further joyous season of hilarity, in the jungles of old O'Brien. They stopped, because they could go no further, unhitched the mules and tied them to the sled. There was no place to sleep, and nothing in sight but a ceaseless tramp; the best they could do, was to keep from freezing to death.

Soon, Hank had the shovel digging a hole in the huge snow bank, and Ed. wanted to know what that was for, and was told, as death stared them in the face, he might as well dig the grave for their burial. He dug a hole large enough for them to crawl into and lie down, which they did, and with a rubber blanket, robes and fur coats, they were warm and comfortable, slept soundly until morning, awoke all right, and after breakfast, and under a clear sky, started home and finally reached there safely. When they found the deserted goods, there

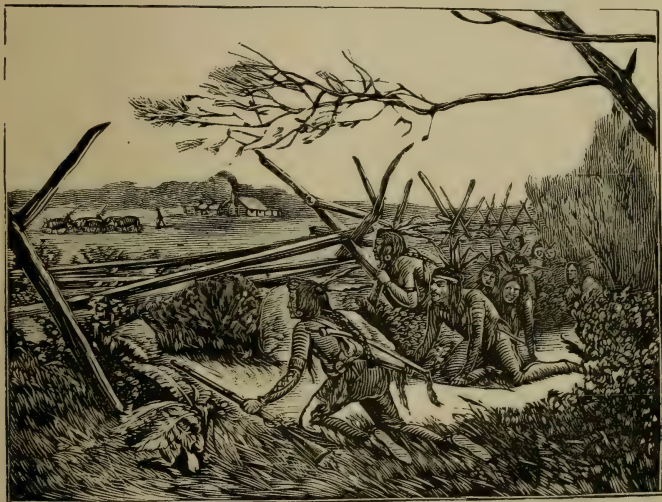


REV. JAMES BICKNELL.



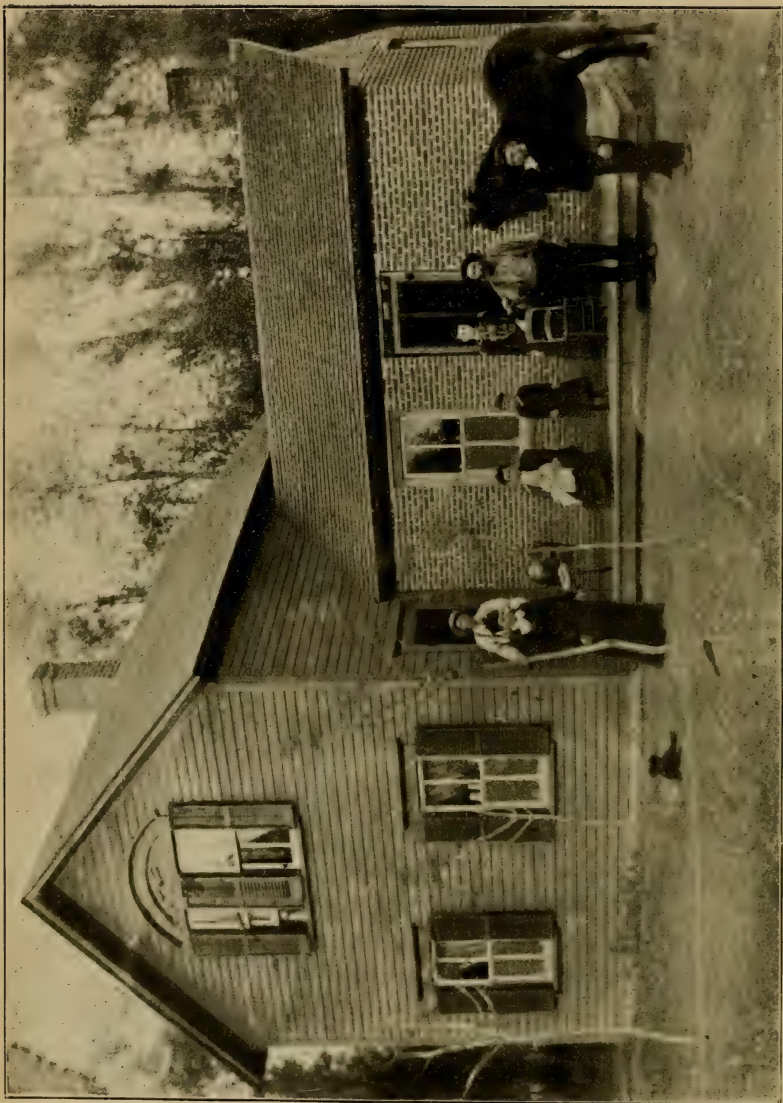
THE OLD LOG COURT HOUSE.

were nine bottles of brandy bitters, which Baker was anxious to have them return with, as the settlement was out of stimulants, and none near by. When they did return, Baker made for the sled for his bitters, but all there was left of the nine bottles was half a bottle, and this made Baker so mad he shied the bottle at Hank and Ed, but both had an eye on him, and dodged the bottle.



INDIAN STEALTH.

Soon after Ed. Parker arrived at old O'Brien, he took his gun and wandered out through the timber, to see what he could kill. When about a mile north of the Baker residence, he scared up a deer not far away, and with his rifle killed it. The deer run quite a ways, leaving the snow with a trail of blood, and at last it fell. Ed. was following it, and when he was off a ways, the deer lying on the ground, he still blazed away with his rifle; this being his first deer, he did not propose to have any doubt left of its being dead. Then, in his



RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM WAGER.

youthful enthusiasm and excitement over killing the deer, he started on the run for Baker's house, took a straight line through the brush and among stumps, and when he reached the Baker fence he did not even turn aside for a gate, but went straight ahead, leaping the fence, even with the gate open close to him. Out of breath, he managed to shout his wonderful achievement in killing a deer, and the rest of the party went out and brought it in.



INDIAN ATTACK UPON MR. WATERMAN.

An earlier settler than Smith or Parker, was S. B. Hurlbert, who was called Gov. Hurlbert. He came with his wife in 1866. Mrs. Hurlbert was the first white woman who lived on the west side of the Sioux river, in the county. Mr. Hurlbert built a trapper's fort at the mouth of Hurlbert Creek, and at first put in his time trapping. He was elected sheriff in the fall of 1869. Mr. Hurlbert was a thoroughly frontier man, having lived in Wright county, Iowa, at an early day, when the family went seventy miles to mill. He now resides in Alluvia, Texas, engaged in photographing.

The old Major Inman house on the Waterman was burned in March, 1897. The house was first started in the fall of 1869, and several years after, there was put to it a large addition. The first story was built of stone, the rest was frame. The lumber in the first house was hauled from Fort Dodge. The farm is known as the "Cedar Cliff Farm", and is now owned by Peck, Artherholt & Ingham, and is on Section 26, in Waterman township. On this same section Gov. Hulbert built a log house in 1867, and sold the claim afterwards to Major Inman.

Among the others in 1868 who came to the county were A. B. Husted, Gus Baker, Charley Hill and John Patchen. W. H. Baker and Gus Baker died several years ago; H. F. Parker is at Cripple Creek, Colorado; Charley Hill is dead; John



JOHN W. KELLEY.

Patchen moved away, while A. B. Husted still lives on the original claim. Hank Smith resides at Primghar, and Ed. Parker at Sanborn. Of the settlers of 1868 there are only four left in the county—H. F. Smith, E. T. Parker, A. B. Husted and Mrs. C. W. Inman, and of any previous to that time, only Mr. Waterman and his family.

In 1869 there were several more came to the county, than did in 1868. In 1869 there were Horace Gilbert, D. B. Harmon, Ezra McOmber, W. H. Wager, Joseph Rowland, A. J. Edwards, Charles Chandler, Obadiah Higbe, Oliver Evans, Jack Holliday, Archie McDonald, Hoel Gibbs, R. G. Allen, Hiram Wiard, Sol Wiard, Squire Mack, S. J. Jorden, Wm. Baldwin, Mike O'Neil, George Youde, David Finster,

J. G. Arbuckle, A. J. Allen, Ed. Nisson, Thomas McBath, W.C.Green, McCallen Green, Jake Wagoner and Cal Wagoner. Some of these are mentioned elsewhere. A. J. Edwards, who came in 1869, was well known in his day all over the county. He was auditor during the gopher scalp period, was a kind-hearted man, and a good neighbor. He left the county some years ago, and died afterwards. Captain came out in the summer, did some breaking, put up some hay and built a house, then wintered elsewhere, returning with his family in the spring of 1870. He used to tell a story on himself. Said that when they came out in the spring of 1870, they arrived with teams at his claim about dark. A little after dark while walking around the hay stacks, where hay was scattered on the ground



E. T. PARKER.

considerably, he stepped on something which seemed to make a jump, and apparently for captain, which impressed him with the idea, that some species of animal was hidden under the hay, and that there was nothing to do but retreat for safety. Captain went to the house, and soon the entire family were out with broomsticks, and all sorts of weapons belaboring the hidden animal, which continued to spring at every stroke. They finally gave it up, and went into the house. When morning came, and daylight shed its brightness upon the scene of the conflict, and the hay was cleared off in order to discover the character of the animal they had fought, it was found to be a horse collar, which would bound at every stroke, and the collar was just about ruined with the beating. Of others named as settlers in 1869, Horace Gilbert

resides in Minnesota; D. B. Harmon on the original claim; Ezra McOmber at Calumet; William Wager still resides in the county; Joseph Rowland died some years ago; J. W. Kelley lives in Sanborn; Charles Chandler in Kansas; Obediah Higbe is dead; Oliver Evans is still in the county; so is Archie McDonald, living at Hartley; Hoel Gibbs resides in Woodbury county; R. G. Allen at Hartley; Sol Wiard at the Pacific coast; Squire Mack at Spencer, Iowa, and S. J. Jorden on the original claim; Finster is away; Ed. Nisson left for some other part of the country and has not been heard from since; W. C. Green is at Sanborn, while Mike O'Neil and Hiram Wiard died several years ago.

The first school house built in the county was in the fall of 1869, of brick, in Grant township, and Mrs. D. W. Inman was the first teacher in Grant township. The first election in Grant township was in the fall of 1869, at Joe Rowland's house.

The first death in Grant township was Cassa Flathers, in the fall of 1869. The first chimney built in the county, was built for W. H. Baker, on what is now the county poor farm.



C. W. INMAN.

The brick was hauled from Cherokee, and the chimney built by Ed. Parker and Hank Smith. Hank was a mason by trade, and Ed. wanted to learn it, so Hank started him out to practice on this chimney. He commenced with it, to reach a hole in the roof, which was

several feet, diagonally. Hank was away when he built it, and says, that when he got back the chimney had traveled

every point of the compass. Another party who came in 1869 was William Slack. He died several years ago. His son, Charles, lives on the original homestead. A. B. Husted was the first carpenter in the county, and made the first coffin, for some woman just over the line in Clay county. The first threshing machine in the county was owned by Archibald Murry, which was hauled from Dennison, Crawford county. It was a Chicago Pitts machine, was brought up in the fall of 1867, started to work in March, 1868, and was run by Gus Baker, David Watts and Hank Smith. They threshed for Cherokee, Buena Vista and O'Brien counties, for stacks of grain then were few and far between.

After the original log court house, there was built another in 1870, frame, 14x16, which cost several thousand dollars. The records, what few there were, were moved into it, but were moved out soon after, as Dan Inman needed a place to live, and the court house was vacated to him for that purpose. This building was burned next year, and soon after, a similar building was erected, at a cost of several thousand dollars more, which was used until the county seat was moved to Primghar, then the building was sold to H. A. Shade for a residence.



W. C. GREEN.

In 1868 H. J. Rice, W. H. Baker and Hank Smith went to Lyon county, at Doon, and built a residence for Rice. This was the first house built in Lyon county, and the intention then was to organize the county, but Hank and Baker returned and left Rice there. Rice, at the time of going up, lived at Peterson. In the summer of 1868 and the winter following, Lafayette Knight taught school at Old O'Brien, and the spring

after, followed Rice at Doon. When Smith and Baker were returning from building the log house at Doon, they saw a large herd of elk, which they estimated at 300 head, about where Sheldon now is, but they soon scampered away.

When the first school houses were built, Hank Smith and



B. F. M'CORMACK.

Ed. Parker gathered the lime stones from the bluff, burned them into lime for use, and laid the brick.

The first celebration of Fourth of July in the county, was at the Inman school house, in Grant township, in 1868. There were thirty there; had exercises and dinner, and a dance in the evening. Rev. Clifton made a speech.

Dan Inman was the first blacksmith in the county, and R. B. Crego the first shoemaker. Dan opened up on his claim, and Crego cobbled in old O'Brien. When Peg-leg Allen and J. G. Arbuckle came in the fall of 1869, Crego surrendered the cobbling business to them.

THE FIRST COURT HOUSE.

The first court house in the county was built of logs on Mr. Waterman's claim, and remained there something over a year. It was built by virtue of a contract made with J. W. Bosler, and was to be eighteen feet square, but was shy a few feet on each side, so that its real dimensions was about 14 by 20. Instead of being used for a court house while on Mr. Waterman's claim, it was used by Moses Lewis as a residence, but a court house was not needed much, as they carried the various departments of the county business, around in their pockets.

They tried to purchase of Mr. Waterman forty acres of land for county purposes, but at that time, he wanted the scene of their manipulations as far away as possible. The Moses Lewis spoken of, became weary of life some years ago, and committed suicide at Fort Dodge.

Land for county seat purposes was finally purchased of H. C. Tiffany, and upon the completion of this purchase, and the location of the county seat, old O'Brien was brought into existence as a village. The old log court house was moved to the new location, for the county of O'Brien wanted all of its belongings together, but when it was set up again, it was used as a school house, and for a residence, afterwards by R. G. Allen and Bostwick for a blacksmith shop, and finally by W. C. Green as a stable. We call this building a court house, because that was the name given to it, by the parties who made the contract to build it, but after all it was a curiosity, and a sacrilegious travesty upon jurisprudence. It was erected not for use, because nobody could use



F. L. HERRICK.

it for the purpose for which it was supposed to be intended, it was erected, in order that a large number of warrants could be issued in pay for it, and these warrants went into the general pool of the gang. A court house implies a good deal. Generally, that emblem of justice, a blinded female holding in equipoise the scales of justice, stands prominently elevated, and at the fore, to tell the people, that here the wrongs of this wicked world are righted, and there is given unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and that justice is dispensed with impartial hand.

Here was a pile of logs cut from the banks of the Little Sioux, notched, placed together in the form and shape of a building, and the Temple of Justice was complete. About it,



JAMES BROSH.

and on all sides of it, were the consultations and manipulations of men, in devising the various methods of theft, the means of perpetrating robbery and plunder, while within, if it had been a court house in fact, the emblem would be truer to the conditions, if that blinded female was weeping in shame, and her attitude that of a devotee at the throne of justice, whose heart was crushed

with remorse. Never, within the walls of this illy constructed structure was kept the records of the county, never was court held there, and not the sound of a voice of any advocate ever echoed among its rafters. Court houses were not needed, the elements of wickedness were averse to them, the county records were the warrant books, and the only business of the county officials, was to fill up the blanks and detach them for use.

There were still more settlers in 1870, and in 1871, and on, they came in large numbers. One of the earliest was E. W. McOmber, who came in March, 1869. He selected as a claim, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 12, in Waterman township. Mr. McOmber started from Rockford, Illinois, with only an idea of going west, for he had heard of the advice of the lamented Horace. He started with a team and wagon, containing provisions and household goods, with a man by the name of Hobart as a companion. The roads were so bad that he left his load at Iowa Falls, to wait there, until the

Illinois Central R. R. was completed further on. When he got to Ft. Dodge he left his wagon and got a lighter vehicle, and with Hobart drove to Mr. Waterman's place.

Mr. Waterman helped them to make a selection, which they both did as squatters, and then returned to Ft. Dodge. This was in the spring of the year when the creeks were overflowed, and when they were obliged to travel across the country, uninhabited and without bridges. The first night on their return, they traveled most of the night, and coming to a stream of water, they knew not which way to go, and so halted for the night with nothing to eat, and nothing for their horses. To keep warm, they kept up a ceaseless tramp, and when morning came they found themselves on the bank of quite a body of water, a settler's shack on the opposite side, and seemingly no way of crossing. It was near enough to the opposite side for voices to be heard, and they opened up communication with a settler across the water.

He told them the water was forty feet deep, but encouraged their crossing, so in they went, and having a team that was used to swimming, they were soon across. They were quite hungry, having been without anything to eat since the morning before, and at this shack, when they reached it, nothing could be had. They drove on some little distance further to another shack,



ED. C. BROWN.

where some corn was found, with which the horses were fed. The woman of the house was waiting for the men folks to return from Ft. Dodge with provisions, so that this habitation was

without food; still, their condition was so desperately a hungry one, that she gathered together a few scraps of bread, made a compound of the last remnants of tea and coffee, and sat them down to the feast. There are times when a hungry man can eat most anything, but this was too much for McOmber and Hobart; they tried, but an empty stomach was not calculated for food like that, so they waited a while, and the supply from Ft. Dodge soon arrived. We mention this as a fair sample of the uncertainty of meals, in traveling any part of this new country at that time. The settlers were too poor to lay in a



A. B. HUSTED.

large supply, and when the little was exhausted, the weather in winter and spring, and the overflowed creeks without bridges, made it very uncertain when the settler would return, who went for more. If every detail of inconvenience, and sometimes suffering, which the early settlers of O'Brien experienced, were fully known, we should all

wonder how they survived them. But a settler or a pioneer, who starts out to make for himself a home in a new country, is filled with a peculiar ambition; one that leads all the forces of his nature to the point of surmounting every difficulty. He cares not for cold or hunger. He can cross the most troublesome waste of water, sleep soundly on the hard, damp ground, scale a cliff, stand the worst of weather, and endure them all gracefully as long as the El Dorado is ahead of him, and he is fighting the battle with a determination to win. Mr. McOmber's wife came in the summer of 1869, and before the fall of that year they were comfortably housed in a shack on the claim.

The next year Mr. McOmber, upon some breaking done in 1869, raised a small patch of wheat, which yielded twenty-two bushels to the acre. Mr. McOmber's brother George, came and settled near E. W. in the spring of 1870.

There was then between old O'Brien and Fort Dodge, what was called the twenty mile slough, and this was always difficult to cross. They who traveled it, if it was convenient, went together, several teams of them, carried a rope, and when a stream of water was reached, would first swim the horses, then with the rope fastened to the wagons, would pull one over at a time. On every trip to Fort Dodge this method of crossing was used. When these parties landed in old O'Brien, they stopped at the hotel then kept by C. W. Inman. At the time of this arrival, old O'Brien was of but a few houses, not over six, one of which was the log court house. There were two residences besides the hotel, occupied by two different parties, A. Murry and R. B. Crego. J. W. Kelly settled upon the southeast quarter of section 22 in Waterman township. He first lived in a tent with his family, until he had obtained lumber for a building, which was not long afterwards. The lumber was obtained from the Peterson saw mill, and cost Mr. Kelly \$45 per thousand, the house was 16 by 22. In May, 1869, Mr. Kelly, with Joseph Rowland and A. J. Edwards, went to Sioux City to file on their respective claims. Sioux City then had no railroad, and of course the trip had to be made with team. They started from old O'Brien, which was a long drive with streams to cross without bridges, and much of the way unmarked with any traveled road. When



M. G. McCLELLAN.

they drove over the territory which now comprises the thrifty and promising city of Le Mars, some parties there in advance of the incoming railroad, were just putting up the frame of Le Mars' first building. While stopping to chat with the workmen upon this unpretentious structure, some fellow drove along with a covered wagon, making his exodus from the



E. C. FOSKETT.

country, and who was evidently filled with deep disgust, for he remarked, "that he wouldn't give five dollars for an entire section," and that the act of building was but the scheme of a land shark, who was trying to rope in the tenderfeet from the east.

When Sioux City was reached, they stopped at the "Mountaineer House," which long since retired from business as a Sioux City hostelry.

Their papers were made out by T. J. Stone, and the clerk of the office, James Sloan, gave them very courteous treatment. They well remembered, however, that everything they got was paid for, and when they left for home, had finished their business, and had gone the rounds of this crude metropolis in those early days, they concluded that Sioux City had sized their pile, for they had naught but empty pocket books.

At the same time Mr. McOmber came to the county, there came also Mr. Kelly, Joseph Rowland and A. J. Edwards, the parties just mentioned. Mr. Kelly had an outfit of his own, and had drove through from Joliet, Illinois. His wife came with him and two daughters, Anna and Mary. He met Mr. Rowland and Capt. Edwards at Ft. Dodge, and these two new settlers rode up with him.

This was in April, 1869, and on the 29th of that month they arrived at old O'Brien. C. W. Inman also came along from Ft. Dodge with them, as he was there after supplies.

The filing made by Mr. Kelly on the Sioux City trip before mentioned, was made May 5th, 1869, and was the first homestead filing made in the county; there had been some filings of preemptions. Mr. Kelly broke five acres the year of 1869, and rented five acres that year belonging to a man by the name of Gibbs. He was to pay \$5 an acre as rent, but it raised so little that he offered the crop for the rent, which was refused. Mr. Rowland settled on the southwest of 24 and Capt. Edwards on the northeast of 4.



MEMBERS OF THE SHELDON G. A. R.

CHAPTER II.

It might be well enough at this point, to say something concerning the early administration of the county, as Mr. Kelly, previously mentioned, cuts somewhat of a figure in its affairs. In the winter of 1859, some parties in Sioux City, intending first to organize the county, and then to plunder it, made their way to the home of Mr. Waterman, looking for the proper location upon which to establish their headquarters, and afterwards the county seat. Other parties from Ft. Dodge, hearing of this intended invasion, went themselves to the scene of operations, intent upon the same thing. For a brief period there was some conflict between them, until peace was declared, for it is said when rogues fall out, then honest people get their dues. A coterie of delectable thieves was soon made up from these pilgrims from the two cities mentioned. The early records of the county, copied and inserted in another part of this book, do



MRS. C. F. ALBRIGHT.

not contain half of their villainous transactions. There may have been other records, but if so they are not to be found.

Every conceivable device of expenditure known to a prolific mind, was introduced into their transactions. The writer hes-

itates in the mention of names, as this book might fall into the hands of some honorable descedant, upon whose cheek we have no wish to cause a blush for that, for which they are in no way to blame. The names, however, of these early organizers, are found among the names of those mentioned in the records elsewhere inserted, and most of



PATRICK CARROLL.

them have long since gone to their final rest. Two of these organizers, Murry and Lewis, had a hand in the orgaization of Sioux county, as will be seen in the following from the pen of another:

“Before any court house was built, and before there was any habitation in the county, a county government was effected under the shade of a cottonwood tree, by those enterprising characters in northwestern Iowa, Arch Murry and Mose Lewis, assisted by lesser lights, and before the sun went down, an appropriation of \$25,000 had been made, for the purpose of building a bridge across the Sioux river. Arch Murry was delegated to go to Chicago to negotiate the sale of warrants. He sold to the Lombards, Chicago bankers at that time. There was no reasonable limit to Murry’s enterprise, and after he sold the warrants to Lombard, he entered into a contract to

convert them into bonds for the firm, the bonds to draw 10 per cent interest, while the warrants only drew 6 per cent. For this he was to get a round fee as attorney. He only required time enough to get the bonds printed in order to earn his fee, and appearing at the bank with the bonds properly executed, he turned them over and secured the warrants, which he was to return for cancellation at the county seat, under the cottonwood on the banks of the Sioux. Archie did not desire to return to the wild west so soon, after his splendid success as a financier, and took in the sights of the town for a few days. During



D. B. HARMON.

the time, he heard of other capitalists anxious to invest in western securities, and taking the warrants which he had previously sold to the Lombards, and which at their expense he had converted into bonds, he negotiated another sale of them, but before the money was paid over it leaked out, that they were the same that had been previously sold, and Archie was lodged in jail. But he soon got out and returned to north-western Iowa, which he pronounced the best country for legitimate speculation he had ever struck."

From the time of the complete organization of the county up to 1869, there had been issued about \$200,000 in warrants, \$162,000 of which had been placed in judgments in five separate suits, and nothing to show for it, save the few books in which the records were kept. A large area of land was appropriated for a bridge, as will be seen by the records, but the bridge never materialized, except that it comes by tradition, that the contractor in the winter time laid some boards across the Little Sioux on the ice, upon which the gang triumphantly

marched as proof of its building, and to enable the proper committee to duly report its completion. County warrants were accessible whenever they were needed, and we all may



MRS. M. G. McCLELLAN.

be sure that the necessities of the gang were very great. These methods of running the county were continued without interruption until 1870, for there seemed to be no one to stand in the way, except Mr. Waterman, and a few more, and they were powerless. At the election of the supervisors in 1869, there were elected John W. Kelly, Hannibal Waterman

and O. Higbe, an oasis of honesty in a desert of theft. Mr. Kelly at once took up the cudgel of reform. His real sentiments were not known when he was elected, and the battle of this valiant warrior, upon the citadel of a corrupt county organization, was not only surprising but startling, to those who had feasted upon this banquet of plunder. As stated, there were judgments rendered outside the county to the amount of \$162,000.

Mr. Kelly went to Sioux City and employed Colonel H. B. Wilson, a lawyer then in practice there, but long since dead, to appear in the proper court and move that these judgments be set aside, upon the ground of fraud and irregularity in obtaining them. The proceedings instituted by Colonel Wilson were prosecuted to a final success, and during the progress of the suit, and before its final termination, Mr. Kelly was offered one-half the amount to let up in the prosecution of the suit. He indignantly refused. Mr. Kelly, before he finally

got through with this war of his own, was completely wore out, as the sympathizers of the gang so much outnumbered the disciples of his own faith. He finally quit, except his continued advocacy along the line of his previous action. In the fall of 1870 there was another election, but neither of the board of 1870 were elected. They retired from office seemingly without honors. As the county was then beginning to be settled, each year found new recruits in the growing ranks of reform, until the time came, when the affairs of O'Brien county were honestly administered.

In order that the organization of the county might be perfected, it required an election to vote for officers, which was held at Mr. Waterman's house February 6, 1860. There was not needed the security of the ballot box, so that an ordinary hat answered every purpose in which to cast the ballot. There were seven votes cast, and only five of them could have been legitimately cast had there been opposition, and perhaps not more than four, as it was claimed at the time, that one voter lived in Woodbury county, one in Clay, and one in Buena Vista. This sacrilegious abuse of the bulwark of American institutions so



MRS. JOHN CHRYSLER.

called, was entered into by these organizers with a feeling of triumph. The log court house heretofore mentioned, was, after this election built near Mr. Waterman's house which is mentioned in the records, as the temporary house built by A. Murry for the county judge. Mr. Waterman was elected to three offices, that of treasurer, recorder and superintendent of schools. This was done in order that he might be taken

into the fold, and become a member of the gang in spirit, as well as name. But Mr. Waterman would n't affiliate, his conscientious principles of right, would not endorse the acts of the administration, so that he was forced into resignation, and did resign the offices December 11, 1860.

These original county organizers, were also a part of the early history of Clay county, and of Buena Vista.

The county seat of Clay county was established at Peterson, three miles distant from the county seat of O'Brien, and that of Buena Vista at Sioux Rapids, twelve miles away, so that the manipulations in each, could be readily attended to.



JOHN CHRYSLER.

When any contract was desired whereby funds could be raised, it was made in something of this order by the board of supervisors:

"Whereas, the board is satisfied that the bridges will be built, therefore resolved that warrants issue."

The four years following the organization, created largely the debt of the county, at about the end of which time, warrants were worth only twenty-five cents on the dollar, so that purchases by the county were obliged to have their prices multiplied by four. This depreciation continued until 1868, when they raised slightly, in 1877 were worth forty cents, and not long after were at par. In 1877 an organization was started in the county for the purpose of repudiating this old debt. The question became a subject of much discussion, and the organization in favor of repudiation, was called the "Tax Payers' Association."

Some of the principal movers in it were A. P. Powers, W. H. Woods, Ralph Dodge, W. S. Hitchings, T. J. Steele, C. W. Inman and Joseph Rowland.

Many of the best men in the county, and whose honesty has never been questioned, took an opposite view of that of the association.

They felt, that under all the circumstances of prospective litigation, and for the credit of the county, that it would be better to pay than to repudiate, although corruptly contracted. Some of these men were: William Oliver, J. H. Wolf, Thomas Holmes, T. J. Alexander, J. L. E. Peck, Wm. N. Strong, Frank Derby and Mart Shea.

The result of it was, that the board unanimously rebonded all of the debt, on the 4th day of January, 1881 at seven per cent interest. Soon after this, there was paid on this debt \$30,000. In 1886 the balance of the debt was rebonded at five per cent interest. It was afterwards conceded that the county acted in this matter, with a sense of honor, and was just to itself, although its early officials had perpetrated an injustice.



BYRON DONAVON.



O'BRIEN COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

CHAPTER III.

Some of the readers of these pages, may not know the method of taking government land, upon which the settlers at that time located.

Upon this land originally, the Indians had a right, but all of their title was extinguished by the government. During the administration of Abraham Lincoln, this vast area of land was thrown open to settlement, upon which there could be filed homesteads, pre-emptions or tree claims.

The pre-emption laws were changed by congress several times, but substantially it required a settlement and residence upon the land for a certain period, when the pre-emptor could make final proof, and obtain title from the government, by paying \$1.25 per acre.

The homestead laws, required five years' residence upon the land in order to obtain title, but the law was afterward changed, permitting the homesteader to make final proof, upon payment of \$1.25 per acre.



H. F. HOLYOKE.

The law required strictly, that the settler should have his home on the claim, it must be his residence, so that the first act on the part of the settler was to establish his residence. This was done sometimes by building a house, no matter how

unpretentious; it might be done by starting a cellar, or running the lines, it must be something, to show that possession had been taken. So that it will be seen, that these incoming settlers selected a quarter or an eighty where they desired, made some show of improvement, then made their filing at the land office.

People coming to a new country are generally without means, and the first settlers of O'Brien, were no exception to the rule.

Any kind of a habitation would do on the start, unless the settler was able to build extensively. Very many were naught but a shack or shanty, and this would seem to be ex-



W. E. WELCH.

clusively a western institution, at any rate it was the settler's castle, and a shack was generally 8 by 10 with a shed roof, and tar paper covering. If any one doubted the continuous residence, the shack was pointed out, as the mute but convincing evidence of settlement. A stove pipe also projected through the roof, and this useful ornament would remove all doubt of the settler's good faith. Occasionally, when

some shack was too long neglected, some mischievous or malicious fellow would appropriate it to his own use, and the settler if he returned, would find his evidence of settlement removed.

But among settlers it was regarded, if the claim was taken in good faith, as the sacred habitation, the legal improvement of him who placed it there, and it was not well either to molest or disturb it.

Ofttimes the habitation consisted of a sod shanty, and sometimes a dug out, which was an excavation in the ground, a hole large enough to live in, covered to shed the rain. As the settler prospered, and as he possessed thrift and economy, he would "catch on," and his pioneer structure would be succeeded by something more commodious. If a claim was too long neglected, it would often be taken by another, jumped as we called it, but jumping claims was a disreputable, and sometimes a serious business, unless the settler had entirely neglected his duty, and paid no attention to the requirements of the law. One shack 8 by 10 with a gable roof, was used to prove up three different claims in Floyd township, and which afterwards was moved into Sheldon, and when the town started, used for a meat market. If the settler was in time to do breaking that season, he generally did what he could, and often put in corn on the sod which sometimes would be a good yield.



J. K. M'ANDREW.

These early and unpretentious habitations of the first settlers, have entirely disappeared, and the places that once knew them, will know them no more forever.

" Good-by, old shack; time's relentless rigor
Has ground you up at last to shapeless dust;
But faithfully have you performed your trust,
And sheltered manly worth, and moral vigor."

As will be seen, the first legitimate settlers in O'Brien county after Mr. Waterman, were D. W. Inman and his brother Chester W.; Archibald Murry and some other of the organizers cultivated a little patch of ground near town, in

order to convey the idea, that they were tillers of the soil; yet Archibald Murry must be called a settler as he held land, and died here.

In 1869 there came W. H. Woods, Ed. Nissen, L. A. Worth and George Bell. W. H. Woods was permanent



HON. S. R. HARRIS.

after he came here, and settled upon his claim in locating new comers. He was a surveyor, could find the lines of sections, and was quite useful to those seeking a home. His wife, Roma W., is a lady of refinement and education, and a very clever and scholarly writer. She has taken very prominent part in the affairs of the county, and in whatever would tend to better society. She

was the prime mover in the establishment, and the progress of the Baker library at Sutherland.

Her son, H. C., commonly called "Bub," was known to all the settlers twenty years ago. He was a bright fellow, and when a little past his majority, was elected justice of the peace at Sanborn. He died a few years ago, and left many friends here, who sincerely shared the sorrow of his death, with his afflicted parents.

Aside from the early organizers, and Mr. Waterman and his family, the real first settlements of the county were in 1870, 1871 and 1872, they were

"The first low wash of waves,
Where soon would roll a human sea."

The people of Iowa, and other sections of the country, began to know that the government was contributing to those who cared to take it, the finest of agricultural land. B. F.

McCormack came to the county in April, 1870, from Illinois. He brought his family, consisting of his wife and one child, his boy Frank, but left them at Iowa Falls which was then as far as the Illinois Central had built. B. F. himself, then took a construction train as far as Pomeroy. He walked to Cherokee, where he met Wm. Baldwin and David Fanning, who were loading lumber for the purpose of building a ferry boat for use in crossing the Little Sioux River. After a conversation with them, he concluded to go with them to old O'Brien, which he did. The road up was almost impassable in places, and much trouble was had getting across the sloughs, and having no "grub," at one place they got some stale bread and raw pork. At 10 o'clock at night they arrived at old O'Brien, where Mr. McCormack put up at the only hotel, which was then kept by R. B. Crego. This hotel building heretofore mentioned as kept by C. W. Inman, was built by Mr. Inman in the spring of 1869, the lumber was hauled from Dennison in Crawford county, and cost \$5,300 which could now be built for \$1,500.

Soon after Mr. McCormack got there, he was ushered into the treasurer's office, in charge of J. R. Pumphry, deputy to R. B. Crego.

It was up-stairs in the Crego hotel, in a fair sized room. An early settler, Allen, (called at that time "peg leg Allen," he having but one leg,) had a cobbler's bench in one corner, while Pumphry presided over the finances of the county in another part of the room, the intervening space occupied by loaf-



C. F. ALBRIGHT.

ers, and the room filled with tobacco smoke from an array of cob pipes.

Mr. McCormack being a practical surveyor, at once went to work, and about a month after his arrival, went to Fort Dodge for his family.

Upon his return, he moved into a house in old O'Brien belonging to R. B. Crego and occupied by Mr. Parsons, his wife and one daughter. Mr. Parsons and wife now reside in California, being over ninety years of age; the daughter married George Youde some years ago.

The summer of 1870, Major Inman secured the contract to build four school houses. He had a large number of men employed, who were useful as voters at the election that fall. Ed. Parker was foreman of Inman's men. That summer,



W. W. JOHNSON.

there were settlers only in Waterman, Grant and Liberty townships. Henry Miller towards fall took a claim in Center township.

The first convention for the nomination of officers, was held in the fall of 1870. It was a mass convention and was free from politics; it was only a strife between factions. Capt. A. J. Edwards and A. Murry, were contestants for the nomination of

auditor, which resulted in favor of Murry. Hi Parker secured the nomination for clerk of court, and C. W. Inman as supervisor against J. W. Kelly. There were nominated at this convention for supervisors, B. F. McCormack, McAllen, Green, and Joel Gibbs. This convention was held in the school house at old O'Brien—A. J. Edwards was chairman, and J. R. Pumphry, secretary.

An independent ticket was put in the field, and there were 127 votes cast. Against those who were finally elected, there was a petition signed by ninety of the voters who opposed them, but the manipulations in politics know no bounds, there was some inducement, by which enough of a part of that ninety was secured, to finally elect.

In the year 1870, the law in regard to electing members of the board was changed, so that they were no longer elected by the county at large.

In the fall of 1870, when McCormack, Field and Inman were elected, they drew cuts to decide the length of term. Three slips of paper of different length were put into a closed book; McCormack drew first and drew the longest, which meant a term of three years. Inman drew the next longest, which meant a term of two years, while Field was left with the shortest slip, which was a term of one year.

In 1871, B. F. McCormack and J. R. Pumphy conceived the idea of a newspaper for old O'Brien, and acting upon this, established one. The matter was prepared in old O'Brien, sent to Robert Buchanan in Cherokee, publisher of the "Times," printed and returned for distribution. Mr. Pumphy was proprietor of the paper, with McCormack as editor and manager, who received two-thirds of the profit as his compensation. The paper was called the "O'Brien Pioneer," and the Pioneer family was not always at peace. Mc-



JAMES ROBERTS.

Cormack, in his slashy comments of some of Pumphry's friends, offended the proprietor. In the fall of 1872, L. B. Raymond, now of Franklin, Iowa, and one of the prominent men of the



CLAUDIUS TIFFET.

state, negotiated for this paper, put in an office at old O'Brien where the paper could be printed at home, and placed it in charge of A. H. Willits, who afterwards purchased it. In the fall of 1871, R. B. Crego, who was then treasurer of the county, went to Sioux City to sell some horses. The snares of the metropolis were too many and en-

ticing for Crego. He indulged too much in the wayward vices of the city, and remained away so long that he was finally deposed, and his deputy, J. R. Pumphry, was appointed in his place. Crego, upon his return, raised the question of his right to the office in the courts, but was defeated. He was short in his funds \$4,000, but afterwards made it good. Mr. McCormack is now publisher of the Sanborn Sun, Mr. Crego is in Oregon, and J. R. Pumphry is in the real estate business.

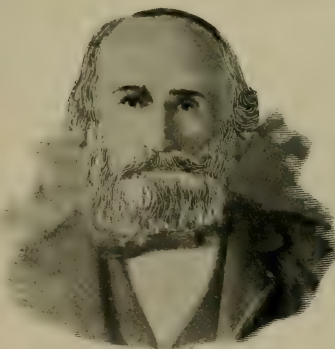
THE FERRY BOAT.

If there is one thing more than another that should go down in history, and should float over the memories of old settlers and be transmitted to their descendants, it is the ferry boat which navigated the Little Sioux in 1869. You can imagine a group of "land lubbers," not one of whom ever, in the vernacular of the sea, went "before the mast," discussing the building of this boat, its size, capacity, and particularly its shape. There were J. W. Kelly, Maj. Inman, Hank Smith, Ed Parker, B. F. McCormack, W. C. Green, and several

others who had a hand in the architecture of the ferry boat, and their various ideas were debated, until all the plans and specifications of its building, were finally decided upon. The boat as at last constructed was twelve feet by twenty, its deck was level, its sides were straight up and down, but the ends sloped, or, rather, to fully express it, the bottom was five feet shorter than the deck.

It was built on the bank of the river, of lumber hauled from Cherokee, and much interest was manifested as the work progressed from day to day. When the boat was completed, the next thing was the launching. It has been the custom from time immemorial, when some splendid specimen of nautical skill, some sovereign of the seas, was to be launched, that a bottle of wine was suspended from the bows, and at the right time, a young lady selected for the occasion, would break the bottle and spill the

wine. We know not where the custom originated, but it still exists. This custom in the details of its usual observance was dispensed with, and if there had been wine, it might be safe to say that it would not have been wasted on the prairie. The usual beverage of the locality, vinegar bitters, was used as a matter of auxilliary



R. C. TIFFT.

enthusiasm for the occasion, and the eyes of the gathered few were delighted, when the ferry boat bade farewell to the land, and sat like a swan upon the beautiful waters of the Sioux. The next thing was a name, and several were suggested. Ed. Parker thought the "Sleeping Beauty" would be nice; McCormack suggested the "O'Brien Belle," and Clark Green the "Darling Prairie Flower," while John Kelly thought it ought to be

something more rugged, and he suggested the "Leviathan;" and we presume if it had been a few years later, it would have been named the "Grasshopper." As it was, they finally compromised on "Jennie Whipple," which we understand was the name of some comely maiden of Waterman township, the



ENOCH PHILBY.

daughter of a settler.

The means of propelling the boat back and forth, were by taking hold of a tightly-stretched rope, which was fastened on each side of the river. When a team and wagon were to cross, the team was taken over first, the boat then returned, and took the wagon over. Once when a yoke of oxen was being ferried across, and when the boat was in the middle

of the river, the oxen moved forward enough to tip the boat down at one end, which caused the oxen to slide into the river. At another time, when the wind was blowing unusually strong, the boat was lifted considerably on the windward side, and dumped several head of cattle in the stream. The Jennie Whipple served her time, and at last outlived the days of her usefulness, and was finally used as a support for a pontoon bridge, then thrown aside, and is now no more.

The ferry was used until 1871, when Mr. Kelly was employed to make a pontoon bridge, which he did by using the ferry boat and building over that. This bridge was used until 1872, when the iron bridge still used, was put up by the Ohio Bridge Company, of Cleveland. The Little Sioux which this bridge crosses, was quite a stream in early days, and is

something of a stream yet. The bridge is 325 feet long, the main part being 85 feet. Several spans have since been put in where others washed out. The bridge building of the county was done after this, mostly by Adam Toberman, an old homesteader and a practical mechanic. His son, J. D. Toberman, one of the best men in the county, now has charge



RESIDENCE OF ENOCH PHILEY.

of the bridges in the county. This bridge went out in the spring of 1897, but was soon replaced.

H. A. Sage was one of the earliest settlers of old O'Brien. Mr. Sage was a prominent citizen of the county, very much respected by his fellow citizens. He was living at Sutherland

of late years, was a justice of the peace, and died there in 1895.

The first store in O'Brien county, was started in old O'Brien, the county seat, by W. C. Green, in October, 1869. Mr. Green, and he was then as he is now, called "Clark," came to the county in 1869, and landed at the county seat on the 22d day of August. Dennison, in Crawford county, was then the nearest railroad station, and at that point he met Archibald Murry, who was soon to return to old O'Brien, and he induced Clark to go along with him. They drove up



FRANK FRISBIE.

with a span of mules and an ordinary farm wagon, and had along with them a railroad contractor, by the name of Martin. This man Martin had with him \$7,000 in currency, and being a stranger to the other two, manifested some nervousness for fear that in some mysterious manner, his money might take wings and fly away.

But neither Clark nor Murry knew he had it. When this traveling trio got to the Maple river at Mapleton, the river was impassible, as there was no bridge, and the river high. There was no house near, so they camped out in a wheat field, and slept on the wheat shocks. The second day Murry was taken sick, and as there was no doctor to diagnose the case, nor remedies to apply, Clark began to rack his brain for a remembrance of something his mother did for him in the days of his youth, but at last, having nothing to give the patient, but some stimulant from the Denison drug store, and an encouragement on

the order of faith healing, he freely administered these, and Murry pulled through.

After the river had fallen, a small dugout, with a wire stretched across the river with which to propel it, was used as a species of navigation in order to get to the other side. Clark Green, Murry and the railroad contractor got safely aboard, with a rope hitched to the mules with the wagon, in order to swim the mules over after them. These ambitious navigators were fearful that something would happen, and the railroad contractor was particularly nervous, for to be drowned with \$7,000 in one's pocket would surely be fearful to contemplate. Just before they reached the opposite bank sure enough, over they went, and each one was soon floundering in the water. Martin swam to a tree on the edge and climbed even to the top; Clark Green soon reached some boughs and pulled himself out, while poor, sick, but convalescent Murry at last crawled out upon the bank. The mules and wagon were soon got over, and the boys dried their clothes and pursued their journey.

L. C. Green, a brother of Clark, and who now lives in Lake Park in Dickinson county, came to the county soon after the ferry boat episode, and did the teaming in hauling from Denison Clark's stock of goods shipped from Chicago, with which he opened the first store. He first opened in an addition to Murry's residence, and in the spring of 1870, erected a building with native lumber from the Peterson saw mill.



J. H. WOLF.

The first postmaster at old O'Brien was C. W. Inman, with J. R. Pumphrey as deputy. Clark succeeded Mr. Inman in 1870. Mr. Green's store was the general rendezvous as long as it remained in old O'Brien. The gathered few would sit around on the ends of barrels, smoking clay pipes, and if we had a record of their sayings and the stories told, it would be an entertainment of itself.

This was not in the days of prohibition, and, of course, this gathered coterie of early settlers had the legal right to soar into the realms of imagination, through the aid and influence



J. F. STONE.

of a bowl of the ardent. Archibald Murry, at that time and for some years previous, was to old O'Brien, what Joan of Arc was to France, she was France, and Murry was old O'Brien.

Clark Green removed to Primghar upon the removal of the county seat, and afterwards to Sanborn, where he now resides and is in the dry goods business. He is re-

membered by the old settlers as one who was ever ready to lend a helping hand, and too much for his own good, trusted out his merchandise, signed bonds, and helped those who needed help, and the word selfishness was unknown to him.

Although these early O'Brienites were somewhat ungodly at times, yet not long after the starting of the town, they had religious opportunities and a chance to hear the gospel preached, such preaching as it was. The preacher, however, was soon taken into the "ring," which must have dampened his ardor in presenting the doctrine of Christ's sermon on the Mount. The writer knew one preacher who, in later years,

and after the western part of the county began to be settled, would come up among us with tales and stories of boodle, then return and take his share with the rest.

The first established minister in old O'Brien was Rev. Seymour Snyder, but his charge extended from Peterson into Minnesota. He was a Methodist, and claimed then to be preaching in two states and seven counties. Along with his bible he carried a rifle, and could not only preach, but could shoot.



BELL ODD FELLOW BLOCK, PRIMGHAR.

CHAPTER IV.

In 1867, Rev. W. W. Mallory became the pastor; in 1868, Rev. Thos. Whitely; and in 1869, Rev. C. W. Clifton. Rev. Clifton stated, that in one year he traveled three hundred miles, and preached over one hundred sermons. H. H. Waterman, a man of consistent Christian life and practical piety, was licensed to preach in those early years, as was also R. B. Crego, but Brother Crego fell from grace so much, and so often from the true line of piety and soberness, that he was compelled to withdraw.

The first sermon ever preached in the county, was by Rev. James Bicknell, who still resides at Peterson. The first church ever built in the county, was on section thirty-three in Center township, which was built in the spring of 1871. It was constructed out of the pure virgin sods of the prairie, upon which had shone the gentle rays of the sun, for so many years.

The homesteaders had what we called a "bee," and with their breaking plows turned out a large quantity of tough slough sods, which was soon formed into a structure for religious purposes.



J. J. HARTENBOWER.

On the 4th of July of that year, a celebration was held in this church building. The outside world was full of glory and enthusiasm, the air filled with noise and pyrotechnics, and the voices of American orators were sounding the distinguished valor and heroism of our cannonized ancestors, but this little band of county settlers met together with a Quaker quietness, comparatively speaking. They had their lunch baskets and were socially agreeable, but the cannon, the firecracker and the fireworks were conspicuously absent. That evening all hands went to Capt. R. C. Tift's residence, and wound up the day with a jolly dance.

Rev. Clifton was the first preacher in this sod church. In 1871, there was quite an Indian scare, which was started from an alarm made by Mrs. Fenton, living in Grant township, and when a woman starts out with a hue and cry, the populace of

course are excited with fear of coming danger and disaster. She saw out on the distant prairie, something which she believed to be a band of Indians, but which finally turned out to be a drove of cattle. It was enough however, that her imagination pictured nothing but a horde of savages bent upon a slaughter of the settlement, and whose tomahawks and scalping knives were ready for their victims. She flew about the neighborhood, and the alarm she started became general.



J. T. STEARNS.

All hastily hitched up their teams of horses and oxen, loaded in their household goods and their families, and there was a general exodus from the prairie, to the town of old O'Brien. This town for a while constituted a fort for protection against the coming invasion, and the town bristled with shot guns,

and was numerous with warriors, but there was no Napoleon. Major Inman was made commander-in-chief, but owing to the nervous condition of these raw recruits, it was difficult to get them in a line of action, and to brace them up with sufficient bravery for the onslaught. Ed Parker and Lem Green declared, that while they had no wife of their own, still they would die in the last ditch for some other man's, they didn't propose to stand around and see the women and children slaughtered before their very eyes, no matter what fate might be awaiting them. Clark Green's store was the headquarters, and of course Clark had to guard his stock, and at the same time, the gathered families of the settlers B. F. McCormack, Ed Parker, Hank Smith and C. Boyles were detailed as pickets, Jack Brock and Lem Green as scouts, and while history does not name the commissary, yet whoever he was, there was soon provided an abundance of vinegar bitters, a beverage



FRED. FRISBIE.

known to the trade then, but it is a matter of record, that the campaign lasted as long as the bitters did, and when that was exhausted, these county seat patriots retired from military duty, and the fort was evacuated. It is a matter of fact, however, that the parties before mentioned, with J. W. Kelly, Jos. Rowland, H. Fenton, Horace Gilbert, Gus Baker and Orrin Gowen, advanced into Grant township, and towards the supposed Indians, until it was discovered, that the fright was caused only by harmless cattle—which D. C. Chapman, now a resident of Primghar, had brought into the country.

During a few of these early winters, some of the single men who were holding down claims, made a sort of headquarters

in the bluffs on the Little Sioux. There was plenty of timber for firewood, and this was the most important consideration. As Jake Wagner was one of the moving spirits in this seclusion, and as he had the nick name of Larrapy, the spot was designated as Larrapyville. They chopped some in the winter, and hauled to homesteaders, thereby getting some cash, and then the camp became a general stopping place for settlers who made trips to the Little Sioux for fuel. At the



ISAAC CLEMENTS.

time of the arrival of the county organizers, it was just before the war of the rebellion, and when the mutterings of treason were in the air. Mr. Waterman, a devoted patriot, did not like some of the gang, on account of their being rebel sympathizers. Tift, Bosler and Furber were rebels, and they were among the leading spirits. The days of old O'Brien were long since numbered.

In 1873, when the growing necessities of the county demanded it, the county seat was moved to Primghar, its present location. There is nothing left at the old spot as a reminder that it was once a village, or a county capitol, or the scene of a gang of financial speculators, who piled up a county debt which the county wrestled with in after years, and not all of which has yet been paid. Nothing of the town is left but its memories, and even these will fade, as one after another of the participants in its early experiences, are laid away in the cemetery.

On the southwest quarter of section 4, in Grant township, lives Alfred B. Husted and his family. The writer called there recently, and was greeted with much hospitality. Mr. Hus-

ted, with his matronly wife and family, have lived on this claim since the spring of 1869, although he came to the county in 1868, from Sac county, Iowa, and is one of the four mentioned as being the only settlers of 1868 still residing in the county. Mr. Husted worked a while at old O'Brien for Maj. Inman, and built his house on the claim at odd times without making a regular job of it. He was the first carpenter in the county, worked on Teabout's store when Sanborn started, and also built the first school house in that town.

There were only eleven voters when Mr. Husted came. He believes that Crego was a good man at heart, and more sinned against than sinning. When Mr. Husted first came to the county he came for the purpose of finishing the building of old O'Brien hotel, built by Maj. Inman. In the same township of Grant, D. B. Harmon settled in the spring of 1869, on the southeast quarter of section 36. He came from Wisconsin, and while there, had written to several points in Iowa, as to soil, prospects, etc., of the country, and receiving a favorable answer from Ft. Dodge, left his



JOHN B. PERKINS.

Wisconsin home for that point, and arrived there in April. He stopped at the Iowa House, kept by Moses Lewis of old O'Brien fame. In coming, he walked from Iowa Falls to Webster City, and rode with a farmer from that point to his destination. Mr. Harmon came to old O'Brien under a promise of work at \$4.00 per day, but the promisee never fulfilled his obligation; but Harmon was young and full of life and activity, as he is yet. On the road out, he met Horace Gilbert, Wil-

liam Wager, and some others. After Mr. Harmon had concluded to settle, he sent for his wife, who arrived at Ft. Dodge the latter part of May. He bought a yoke of oxen there, borrowed a wagon, and with some provisions, they started for their O'Brien county home.

While crossing "Hell Slough," which was one of the names for the "Twenty Mile Slough" elsewhere mentioned, and when the water was up to the wagon box, the ox yoke broke in two. Here was a dilemma indeed, no way out of the difficulty but to get into the water, and get the outfit on dry land, which happened to be but a short distance away. The first thing he did was to take his wife on his shoulders, and carry her safely to land, with the water up to his waist, and he first cautioned her that she must not laugh on the journey, if she did, he would be laughing too over such a ludicrous predicament, and then she would surely be dropped into the water, and into "Hell Slough" at that. We may be assured, that Mrs. Harmon avoided even a grin. He then carried the wagon in its different pieces safely ashore, fixed up the yoke,

and went on. That summer they lived in a tent on the claim, put up a sod shanty in the fall, and a farm house afterward. Mr. Harmon broke twenty acres the first summer, put it into crop the next year, but broke too deep, and this with too much rain that season, was the cause of but small returns. With limited means, and nothing raised, Harmon had a hard time of it, his

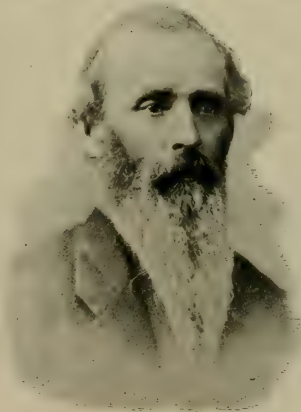


MRS. W. C. BUTTERFIELD.

wife worked out at old O'Brien to earn the necessities of life. A young school teacher, fresh from her girlhood home,

upon the bleak and unsettled prairie of O'Brien without means, and for the first time in her life obliged to work for others in the kitchen, it would seem to be a cause of discouragement and regret, but not so with the young couple, they had the grit and determination to succeed some time, and the elegant mansion, and extensive barns surrounded with thrifty forest trees, upon that same quarter section where the Harmon's still reside, prove that all their efforts and early struggles, have been fully rewarded. Adjoining Mr. Harmon's claim on the west, is the farm of William Wager, who also came to the county in 1869.

What is now an addition to the main part of his house, was built at that early day. It is of brick, and cost Mr. Wager \$400, which was double what it ought to. Mr. Wager's house as it now stands, will be seen with the brick addition. He came from Canada, and like Mr. Harmon, had for a while quite a struggle to pull through, but is all right now, and with much fatherly interest, has helped the boys in getting a start in South Dakota. Another old settler north of Mr. Harmon is Mr. McBath who also came in 1869, and has weathered it through into clear sailing, and under better skies. On section thirty, also in Grant, Mr. Frank Martin settled later than those above mentioned. He came to Peterson in 1871, and settled on his claim in 1872, where he still lives in comfortable circumstances, with his wife and a group of healthy children. Further northwest of Mr. Martin, is an old settler of 1870, J. S. Brosh, who settled and filed upon the west half of the



W. C. BUTTERFIELD.

southeast quarter of section fourteen in Highland township, and still lives on the original claim. He hauled logs to Peterson, had them sawed into lumber, and used the lumber in building, in the spring of 1871. Mr. Brosh came from John-



STEPHEN S. BRADLEY.

son county, Iowa, and by reason of some Johnson county neighbors who were here, he came up. He drove through with a span of black mules, worked them on the farm until 1881, when the mules were killed by lightning. They were in the shed which Mr. Brosh had just left, and was near his wife out of doors, between the house and the shed, when the stroke came. His wife died about a year after that, and as Mr. Brosh believes,

from the effect of the same stroke of lightning that killed the mules, as she was ill from that time. Mr. Brosh has a fine farm and is comfortably fixed.

In the month of February, 1870, Ed C. Brown left the state of Michigan, his former home, to come to O'Brien county. Along with him came Henry and Horace Hoagland, from the same state. Mr. Brown's father lived in Michigan, and a hired man in his employ had previously come to this county, and reported back in glowing terms its prospects and opportunities, which was enough to start the young and adventurous Brown toward the jungles of O'Brien county. The three parties above named, after reaching Chicago bought tickets from there to Dubuque, and reaching this point, asked of an agent of the Illinois Central for tickets to Cherokee. They were told by the agent that there was no such town on the line, so it seems that this promising city then, had neither a location nor

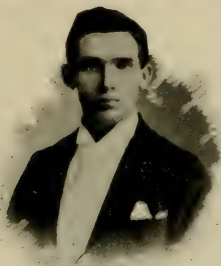
a name. They then bought tickets to Farley and from there to Ft. Dodge, and from this point drove across the country to old O'Brien. Horace Hoagland bought a half section of land, and Henry bought out the claim of a settler. Mr. Brown filed on section 30, in Waterman township, and soon after this, returned to Michigan for his family, and in May following, was a full-fledged homesteader. Mr. Brown went through all the hardships of pioneer life, and while he may now enjoy a season of prosperity, there was a time, along with the rest of us, when poverty and misfortune stared him in the face, and he too was trying to solve the problem of how to live without an income.



FIRST HOTEL BUILDING IN PRIMGHAR.

He got a yoke of oxen, went to work breaking, and in 1871 had in a crop. After getting in his seed for a wheat crop, W. H. Fuller, a not distant neighbor, went over to borrow Brown's harrow. This was nine o'clock in the morning when Fuller got there; Brown was still in bed, but got up when Fuller made his appearance. Fuller made known his wants,

and Brown, a picture of despair on his countenance, said in reply, that he could have the harrow and anything else he wanted; indeed, the claim itself he would turn over, if Fuller would take it. Fuller asked why this condition of discouragement and generosity, and was told by Brown, that everything in the world had lost its charm for him, as the spotted ox had laid



FRED. WOLF.

down and died. At first view, a settler trying to farm and raise crops, and left with only one ox, and no money to buy another, seems to be a catastrophe that would unbalance most anybody, but Brown was not made of that kind of stuff that would surrender, even with only one ox to work with, for there is always a way, and Mr. Brown found it, as he soon had another yoke, and the

work went on. He wrestled, however, and on through the grasshopper period, but finally left the farm and went into the banking business in Sheldon, and is now one of the directors and cashier of the Bank of Sheldon.

Among other earlier settlers in Waterman township, were John G. Arbuckle on section 2; Frank Arbuckle on the same section; Albert Burnside on section 18; A. Cook on section 2; J. R. Finster on section 14; J. S. Finster on section 14; C. E. Hill on section 12; J. H. Skillen on section 4; Michael Sweeney on section 14; Silas Steel on section 18; John and R. W. Weal on section 6; and Geo. Youde on section 32.

There were but four original entries of government land in Dale township, and these confined to one section, section 6; A. J. Carman, on the southeast quarter; P. T. Shriner, on the southwest; S. E. Peck, on the northwest; and H. E. Wilbur, on the northeast.

Another bank cashier, of the Farmers' Bank of Paullina, Stephen Harris, landed in O'Brien county in 1869. He had left the old Bay state, bringing with him in appearance and

speech the characteristics of a genuine Yankee, which he was. He started for Omaha, intending to buy land there, but as some hitch prevented the purchase, he heard that in northwestern Iowa one could acquire land by settlement, and become the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, simply by living on it. Such an opportunity as that, when young Harris heard of it, lifted him into the skies of joyful enthusiasm, and he immediately started for the Sioux City Land Office, to find out sure if this might be true. Land then in Massachusetts was high, full of stumps and stones, and no great prospects for either riches or glory upon its worn out soil. Here was a large tract of rich fertile soil, capable of great productions, and all for nothing. When he reached the Sioux City Land Office, he found that he had been correctly informed, and that the virgin prairie of O'Brien awaited his coming. Mr. Hiram Wiard and his son Sol were in the land office when Mr. Harris arrived, and hearing the inquiries he made, they took charge of him, and brought him to O'Brien with them, and soon after his arrival, through the aid of D.W. Inman, he selected the southwest quarter of section 18 in Grant township. In the fall, Mr. Harris built a sod shack, making a thatched roof, and the following winter lived in Cherokee, leaving the shack in charge of W. W. Barnes, who with his



FRANK JONES.

family occupied it. In the January following, from the stove pipe, the wood work inside caught fire, and the Barnes family

being unable to extinguish the flames as there was but little water, the entire contents of the shack burned, including Mr. Harris' best suit of clothes, his library and some furniture. The next spring he built a frame house with lumber from the Peterson mill at \$45 per thousand. The lumber was green when the house was built, which made a snug tight building, but after the hot summer winds of O'Brien had swept over the prairie, and had got through shrinking the lumber, the cracks were about as wide as the boards, and the house was built over again. Mr. Harris has lived in the county continuously since that time, has held several important county offices, and now resides in Paullina interested in the Farmers' Bank. A son Charles is a newspaper man, of much ability as a writer.

Another old settler, R. G. Allen, reached old O'Brien in



BENJ. JONES.

November, 1869. He came here upon his judgment as to the quality of land after reaching Storm Lake. There came with him, Sam Renny who was twenty-two years old, and weighed near three hundred pounds; they called him Allen's infant. Mr. Allen brought eight head of horses, a lumber wagon and a buggy. He lived in old

O'Brien awhile, hauling merchandise from several different points, Fort Dodge, Denison, Minnesota and other points. The next spring he bought out a blacksmith shop, going into business with Bostwick who was a wagonmaker; the vice

Mr. Allen used then, is used now by Peter Sitler in Hartley. He next bought a claim, the south half of the southeast quarter of section 4, in Grant township, and in the spring of 1871 brought his family from Wisconsin, built a house in June, and lived on the claim. He continued to live on the claim until 1878, when he moved to Primghar and opened a blacksmith shop, run that for a year, then moved back on the farm and remained there until 1883, when he moved to Hartley where he still resides.

Mr. Allen has held several offices, one of which is justice of the peace, which he has held in Hartley for ten years, and has himself as a practitioner wrestled the lawyers around in the trial of cases before other justice courts.

The only colored settler O'Brien county has had, was Ben F. Epperson, who in 1871 settled on the southeast quarter of section eight in Grant township. Ben was not quite as black as the ace of spades, but still was a negro, and although his skin was black, his heart was white in the sense of manly purity and virtue. Ben Epperson, was a man of good hard sense, an honest man, and was very much respected. He left here several years ago, and now resides in Nebraska.

J. K. McAndrew was in this part of the country several times in 1869, as he had relations in Cherokee county. In the spring of 1870, he drove up to O'Brien with his brother-in-law from Aurelia, selected, settled and filed upon the southwest



MRS. BENJ. JONES.

quarter of section 30 in Grant township. Mc. first built a sod shack, worked hard in getting the sod ready for building, and with a desire to do something nice in the way of sod shack architecture, he took considerable pains, and its building was like that of Solomon's Temple, in the sense, that there was not the sound of an axe, hammer or saw. When he got the walls built and the roof about completed, he walked away from it for inspection, and in order that his eye might be delighted with the beauty and success of his handiwork.

Just as he had taken in the structure with a full view, the whole business fell in together, and the building so beautiful to behold a few moments before, was a mass of ruin—nothing but a pile of sods. This did not discourage him, so he rebuilt the shack and lived in it that summer while he was breaking. He had picked up a wide board some fellow had dropped on the road, and for a while, this constituted the roof and his only pro-

tection against rain. Mr. McAndrew lived on this claim, but was away more or less, for eight years; married after two years' wrestling with pots and kettles as a bachelor, built himself then a frame house to live in, and moved to Hartley in 1877. Mr. McAndrew went through the usual hardships, burnt hay for two years, had to be dunned now and



MARY DONAVON.

then like the rest of us, but is now prosperous in business, and a man known to be honest and highly conscientious. He is further mentioned in a separate chapter on Hartley. A settler liv-

ing not far from Mr. McAndrew by the name of Harrager, had given a chattel mortgage on his only cow. When the note became due, Sheriff Nissen went with the mortgage while Harrager was away, to get the cow and foreclose, but just as he was about to drive her away, Mrs. Harrager appeared with an axe and got after the sheriff, who let go the cow and ran for



RESIDENCE OF P. R. BAILEY, PRIMGHAR.

his life, for the woman told him, that all they lived on was the milk of the cow, and anyone who undertook to drive her away she would kill him right there. Nissen nor anyone else undertook afterward to foreclose the mortgage.

Archibald McDonald came from Grundy county, Iowa, to O'Brien in 1869. He and his good wife had crossed the ocean from Scotland some years before. Mrs. McDonald is from

the same parish where Robert Burns lived, and one can see that she is possessed of that rugged integrity and good sense, which is a characteristic of the Scotch people. Her husband,



JOSEPH SHINSKI.

Archibald, also is a true Scotchman to the manor born, and their home is a model of domestic peace. Mr. McDonald and W. F. Fuller came together, drove to old O'Brien, got some information from Murry, and then went out to select their land. Mr. McDonald selected and filed on the southeast quarter of section 36, in Center township, went back to Grundy to har-

vest his crops there, returned and cut some of the timber along the Little Sioux the following winter, hauled it to Peterson's mill, and when sawed into boards built a house on his claim in May, 1870. Mr. McDonald and his family lived on the claim until 1892, when they moved to Hartley. One son, Archibald A., is away seeking an education with money earned himself, and is spoken of as a very promising young man, who will make his mark in the future.

A neighbor of Mr. McDonald by the name of Fitzmire settled in Center about the same time McDonald did, but he died soon after from a wound he received in the army. He had entered the ranks of the Union forces, fought during the war of the rebellion, but towards its close was seriously wounded; soon after he came to O'Brien county, accepted the gift of a quarter section of land from the government he had faithfully served, and then was mustered out by the grim reaper soon after his settlement. His widow and two sons, John and Henry, still live in Center township.

R. M. Boyd, familiarly called "Dick," came to the county from Linn county, Iowa, in the spring of 1871, and settled on the southwest quarter of section 14 in Grant township. He fought with all the rest of us through the grasshopper period, trying to live without crops, but Dick was considerable of a rustler as he is now, and can stand as much grief and misfortune as any man living. He moved to Sanborn some years ago, has been marshal of that city, and during the last session of the legislature has been one of the doorkeepers of the house. Himself and family are among the respected people of Sanborn.

Through the influence of Mr. Boyd, upon his return to Linn county, Mr. James Magee, then living also in Linn county, came in 1871, and settled on the south half of the southeast quarter on section 10.

Both Mr. Boyd and Magee have remained continuously in the county since, and have raised their children here.

R. H. Magee, a son of James, has an elegant farm two miles north of Sanborn; Francis, a daughter, married Mr. A. Boyer, a thrifty farmer east of Sheldon; George lives in Franklin township; Miss Alma teaches in the Sanborn public schools;

Eliza married Frank Kelsey; Wieford lives at home, and Charles lives at Sutherland.

Among other of the early settlers of Grant township, were Curtis Boyles on section 23, A. G. Boyles on section 24, William W. Barnes, who now resides in Sibley, on section 30, H. M. Crosby on section 2. John H. Covey, who was a preacher and for whom the Covey church was named, settled



JURGEN KENKEN.

in 1871 on the northwest of section 8. William A. Compton on the southeast of section 12, Charles Chandler on section 23, N. L. Chesley on section 34 and Geo. Edwards, a son of A. J., on section 24. Charles Fenton and H. G. Fenton both located on section 2 in Grant in 1870. J. C. Farley the same year on section 6, N. F. Flathers on section 26 in 1869. Reuben Gross settled on section 4 in 1870, Hoel Gibbs on section 22, H. B. Gilbert on section 36, H. G. Hammond on



JAMES WYKOFF.

section 2 that same year, 1870. P. A. Hulbert on section 20 and L. E. Head on section 22, settled in 1871. S. J. Jordan located on the northwest of section 32 in Grant in 1871, William Kelsey on section 34 in 1872. John Loder, 1870, on section 36. In 1871, John McCandless and C. R. McCandless settled on section 18; that same year Squire

Mack on section 30. In 1871, also F. W. Martin on section 30, William Newell on section 34, James Phillipps on section 18, James Patterson on section 20, N. Remington on section 28, Joseph Sharer on section 2. In 1872, O. A. Sutton, still residing in the township, settled on section 14, C. M. Stevenson on section 4, O. A. Streeter also on section 4, E. R. Smith on section 8, David Streeter on section 12, and E. R. Streeter. In 1870, Frank Vaughn settled on section 8, William Wilson on section 6, Ira Waterman on section 10, Hiram and Sol Wiard on section 30, and William Weal on section 32.

CHAPTER V.

In 1870, there was quite a flutter among some of the homesteaders, on account of an attempted fraud to deprive them of their lands.

United States land offices were often used by unscrupulous persons, when they could be so used, to perpetrate an injustice.

Certain lands in Liberty and Waterman townships were within the minimum limits of the Milwaukee Railroad land grant, and subject to entry only as double minimum of land, that is, in eighty acre tracts.

In the spring of 1870, the route of the Milwaukee Railroad was changed, so that these lands were placed outside the ten mile limit, and subject to entry in 160 acre tracts.

The settlers in Liberty and Waterman had filed pre-emptions, and when this change was made, sixty days notice was given in some obscure paper, and in the meantime the lands were drawn from entry, leaving such as had not been filed upon, subject to cash entry only. This notice required all settlers



A. B. CHRYSLER.

to file their homestead entries by July 4th, 1870, and an informal notice of this was sent to all these parties, living on these lands. Sixty-one of these settlers filed by July 4th. On the 5th day

of July, certain Sioux City parties offered to make cash entries of these same lands, tendering their money at the land office at Sioux City, which was rejected. These Sioux City parties then appealed to the general land office at Washington, which reversed the Sioux City land office, and cancelled the homestead entries of these settlers. Notice of this was sent to each



ALLEN CROSSAN.

one of them. Then the people got together, formed an association and elected J. C. Doling president, and Ed. C. Brown secretary, raised five dollars each among them, and sent Mr. Doling and Mr. Brown to Sioux City to employ counsel.

The well known firm of able attorneys, Joy and Wright, of

Sioux City, were employed in behalf of the homesteaders, who lost no time in moving upon congress to correct the wrong that had been done, and restore these settlers to their right to file.

Senators Wright and Harlan, of Iowa, and Jackson Orr, of the lower house of congress, were appealed to, and all the facts in the case set before them. George G. Wright, a man of marked ability, and as pure a man as ever graced the senate of the United States, and James Harlan, the same, saw at once the great wrong that had been done, and they, with Mr. Orr, brought the matter before congress by a special bill, which was at once passed. This gave the relief required, and these settlers were soon made happy, in the assurance that the land could not be taken from them, and that this fraudulent attempt to steal their claims, for it was nothing less, unsuccessful. That body of men comprising these sixty-one settlers were not only excited over this attempt to steal their land, but were desperate as well, and many of them were old soldiers. It was believed at the time, if any attempt had been made to take these lands, that somebody would have been



F. M. M'CORMACK.

killed, for every man of them would have fought for his rights, regarding every invader as an assassin and a plunderer.

The settlers seem to have been kept busy about that time, watching out each one for his own individual interest as a claimant, and individually and collectively, as citizens of the county, against the manipulations of county seat officials. There was also a plot to sell the school land at \$1.25 per acre. By the law at that time in force, in 1869, school lands could be sold for \$1.25 per acre, but the contemplation of the

law was, to get all that could be got out of them, as the proceeds went into the school funds in the interest of education, and in selling them, not only their present, but their prospective value was to be taken into consideration. The sale then at \$1.25 per acre was a job put up in the interest of individual plunder, but was immediately checked, and upon the matter being presented to Gov. Merrill, and to the Adjutant General of the state, the gallant Attorney General, Henry O'Conner, prepared and filed the required papers which caused an injunction to issue restraining the sale. Upon the strength of this attempt to fritter away these lands, and the action which resulted, the Thirteenth General Assembly of Iowa amended the law, making the minimum price of sale at \$6 per acre, and otherwise strengthening the law, in the interest of a proper disposal of the school lands.

Warren Walker came to the county from Marshall county in 1871. He settled on the northwest quarter of section 6, in



REV. W. E. GLANVILLE.

Baker township. He did not live on the claim very long, but moved to Primghar when the town started, in 1873. Went into the land business, and was admitted to the bar to practice in 1874. Moved to Sanborn in 1880, continued in the land and law business, and was also engaged in the newspaper business there, and moved to Des Moines in 1895. Mr.

Walker entered the army of the rebellion at the age of 14; he was identified with the affairs of O'Brien county for over twenty years, established telephone lines, was a member of the board of supervisors, and was quite a prominent citizen of the county during the years he lived here.

The first celebration in the town of old O'Brien was July 4th, 1872. L. S. Boughton was president. H. H. Water-

man Chaplain and B. F. McCormack read the Declaration of Independence. Ira Brasheers delivered the oration, and a glee club furnished the music. There was a picnic dinner, and they had some amusements, horse racing, and a dance in the evening.

A political convention held at Paine's store, July 27, 1872, adjourned until August 10, 1872, because Highland township had no delegates. The

delegates at that convention were, Floyd township, B. F. Luce and D. A. W. Perkins; Waterman township, A. J. Edwards, J. R. Pumphrey and Ed. A. Nissen; Carroll township, Harley Day and H. P. Holyoke; Sutter township, E. Rinker and D. W. Wellman; Center, J. P. Blood; Grant, C. W. Inman, John Burroughs and



J. G. CHRYSLER.

Joseph Rowland; Liberty, I. L. Rerick, H. H. Webster, J. H. Alexander and H. A. Hoagland. This convention met at the time to which it was adjourned, August 10th, with the missing Highland delegates consisting of H. C. West, C. F. Albright, and William Bascom. There was an effort made in the convention to have it considered as a new convention, and as having nothing to do with the one previously held, but the scheme did not work.

W. E. Welch came from Jefferson county, New York, in March, 1871, and as did many others met Archibald Murry at Fort Dodge. Mr. Welch after being told about O'Brien county, rode with Mr. Murry to Storm Lake, and remaining there awhile went to old O'Brien, and stopped with Mr.

Murry about two years. Murry secured the south half of section 28 in Carroll township for Mr. Welch, which he built upon in 1872, and lived on the place for awhile, then traded this quarter for one in Baker township, upon which he resided until 1885, and then moved to Sheldon where he now resides. Mr. Welch was at one time a member of the board of supervisors, and is one of the thrifty citizens of the county. He acted for awhile under Sheriff Nissen as his deputy.

James Roberts, who came from Pennsylvania to Poweshiek county, Iowa, came up from Cherokee. He sought out W. H. Woods, who located Mr. Roberts on the northeast of section 28 in Carroll township. Forbes Williamson had the claim covered up, as we call it, by some filing, but Roberts paid



HOMER W. CONANT.

Williamson \$28 to get rid of him. He wintered in Poweshiek county in the winter of 1871-2, and in Pennsylvania in the winter of 1872-3. He broke one hundred and twenty acres on his quarter in 1875, and in 1875 farmed this, except about seventy acres that he rented out. This being the first year of the grasshoppers he saved only a portion of his crop, but Levi Allison, who had ten acres of Roberts' land in

oats, did not harvest a bushel. The threshers that year in Carroll charged \$25 a day for threshing, without regard to the yield. In the winter of 1873-4, Mr. Roberts cut wood in Poweshiek county. When he drove up in the spring of 1874 and got to the Day school house, he saw about forty men there, wearing troubled and disconsolate faces, and Jim supposed that some settler had died. Upon inquiry he found they were after

relief, and there was much concern among them as to the amount each was to get.

The only amusement the boys had in these times, was an occasional dance in the house of some settler. The rooms being small, they could only dance one set at a time, but this was got along with, and they were happy anyway for a while.

At one of these dances, George Mennig's, James Roberts, who was from infancy a Methodist, thought he would join in, but he was lame from a sprained ankle, yet he sailed into the merry whirl of gaiety regardless of unsound limbs, when some one wanted to know what was the matter with that Methodist foot, which sort of startled Roberts, and he quit

there and then, and has never danced since. Mr. Roberts now owns a half section of O'Brien county land; he purchased a residence in Sheldon and occupied it in December, 1896, where he now lives, taking life easy.

W. C. Butterfield came to O'Brien county in 1870, having heard of its fertile soil and free homes, and as this was his first coming he was located by W. H. Woods on the southeast quarter of section 4, in Carroll township. He came again in 1871, and moved up permanently with his family in the spring of 1872. He hauled lumber from Cherokee and built his house in the fall of 1871. He was one of the Durant, Cedar county, crowd, having been engaged in the mercantile business in Durant for several years. He afterward was in the shoe business in Sheldon, and in 1873 being a practical shoemaker he did a large amount of cobbling for poor homesteaders, for which he never was paid, and indeed he never asked



JAMES FRISBIE.

for pay. Mr. Butterfield was a Vermont yankee, of a mild, manly character, and of unbounded generosity of heart. He died in 1895. His widow, Mary R. Butterfield, was an early pioneer with him, and is a matronly woman of much refinement and womanly tenderness. Charles F. Butterfield, a son



H. B. WYMAN.

of W. C., came first in 1871, and settled on the northeast of 4, in Carroll township. He worked here breaking in the summer of 1871, wintered in Durant the following winter, and returned in the spring of 1872. He made the first track from where Primghar now is to his claim, which for a long time was a regular traveled road. C. F. is now engaged in the shoe business in Sheldon. Another

son of W. C. Butterfield, C. W., settled upon a claim in 1872. He left the county for Montana some years ago and died there. The youngest son, George M., was not old enough for filing upon a claim. He taught school for a number of years, and now is in the employ of the Government at the head of an Indian school at the Rosebud agency.

J. J. Hartenbower now a Des Moines capitalist, settled on section 34 on the southwest quarter in 1872. The first time we saw "Jerry," was before Sheldon started, at Dan McKay's house, when Ira Brasheers was preaching a Methodist sermon. He was as poor as the rest of us in those early days, but by tact as a financier has become well off.

W. H. Dorsey, a brother of Senator Dorsey of Star Route fame, settled early on the southeast quarter of section 2. Among other early settlers in Carroll township was J. R.

Deacon on section 6, one of the best men that ever lived. Gladney Ewers, who now resides in Minnesota, settled early on section 32. L. G. Healey on section 14, who died a few years ago at the Pacific Coast. B. Hutchinson, who settled on section 24, and kept a store there until Sheldon started. A. J. Brock settled on section 10. D. Barrett on section 24. Nancy A. Bush on section 32. R. H. Cook on section 2. E. L. Cook on section 2. Paul Casley on section 22. R. H. Cook now resides in Dakota. E. L. Cook is dead, and Paul Casley is a route agent in the west. Other settlers were John Clements on section 28, Robert Cowan on section 30, Harley Day on section 26, J. F. Frisbee on section 14, Frank Frisbee on section 14, E. S. Huber on section 23, L. A. Honberger on section 34, M. H. Hart on section 37, C. P. Jones on section 18, T. M. Lemaster on section 24, Harvey Luce on section 30, and C. C. Miller on section 4. D. N. McElwain a brother to Mrs. W. C. Butterfield, and father of



MILT. H. ALLEN.

Mrs. C. F. Albright settled on section 4 in 1872, and died several years ago in the county. "Uncle Nick" as he was familiarly called, was a rugged, sturdy character, who was thoroughly honest and kept the golden rule, to do unto other men as he would be done by.

Dan McKay settled on section 6, 1871, resided here continuously until a few years ago when he moved to Tacoma. His son George, who was but a small lad when he came here, studied law with the writer at Sheldon, passed a very creditable examination upon his admission to the bar, and is now

one of the prominent lawyers of Tacoma, Washington. Mr. McKay's house being near the town site of Sheldon, was used before Sheldon started, for church services, and when Sheldon started and before there was any hotel, H. C. Lane and some others boarded with the McKay family, and this meant a pleasant boarding place, for Mrs. McKay knows what is genuine housekeeping and genuine hospitality. Mamie McKay, a daughter, married George Piper, brother to F. T. Piper. John Griffith who died a few years ago, settled on section 2 and the original farm is still in the family. William Moffitt settled early on section 20, Dan Moffitt on the same



CALVIN R. HURD.—LOST IN THE BLIZZARD.

section, Frank Moffitt on section 22, and Erwin on section 28. Dan Moffitt still lives in the county, worried through the grasshopper period with the rest of us, and is now squarely on his feet. Erwin also made the same struggle to pull through and is now all right. John W. Nelson settled early on section 24, died a few years ago on the same quarter. His widow now resides in Sheldon, with her son Gladney. P. A. Nelson made an

original settlement on section 36, worked at his trade as a mason several years at Sheldon, and died a few years ago at Sutherland. Pete as he was familiarly called, was a prince of good fellows, one of the best of men, and at his death left a host of friends who sincerely mourned his departure. His wife now resides with her family at Sheldon, and is a woman who commands the highest respect.

William Renolds settled early on section 22 in Carroll, a mason by trade and one of nature's noblemen. He died several

years ago at Sheldon. J. F. Stone settled early on section 8, but left the farm several years ago, was in the furniture business at Sheldon, and after an absence of about a year, has become again a resident of that city.

Isaac Sprague an early settler on section 34, now resides at Sutherland. John Stone on section 36 was an early settler. Isaac Toothaker and C. W. Toothaker settled early on the west half of section 12. Forbes Williams on section 28, Henry Whitmore on section 4, and Louie and Nick Younger on section 30.

C. D. Pottinger on section 16, Silas Poole on section 26, and Mary Priest on section 14, were early settlers in Carroll. Geo. W. Schee who has been prominent in the county, settled on the southeast quarter of section 26, in 1872.

George Mennig, who lived in Davenport, Scott county, came first to O'Brien county in 1869. Mr. L. A. Worth, also from Davenport, and who was a member of the same company as Mr. Mennig during the war, had been in the county the year previous, and by his advice Mr. Mennig came. He first settled on a claim in Liberty township, filed a preemption on this, returned to Davenport and came again in the spring of 1870. Then he built a shack of sod and broke thirty acres, and that year made final proof. Mr. Mennig brought his family in the spring of 1870, and the winter of 1870-71 he lived in the Burnside house in Waterman township. In the fall of 1870 he filed a contest on the southeast of section 18 in Carroll township, which being decided in his favor, he settled on this quarter as a homesteader in April, 1871. They lived



GEORGE A. MILLER.

first in a tent, then built a house and occupied this until June. Mr. Mennig still resides on the same quarter. He went through all the county trials and tribulations, and in addition to the grasshoppers, he lost all his crops by hail three different seasons. Mr. Mennig was on the police force in Davenport in 1866 and 1867, is now the owner of considerable property, takes life easy, and is one of the best men in O'Brien county. Along with Mr. Mennig in the spring of 1871, came Claus



ALFRED MORTON.

Klindt and family and C. P. Jones and family. Mr. Klindt settled on the northeast of section 18 in Carroll township, and Mr. Jones on the northwest of the same section. They both built houses, Mr. Klindt a frame house and Mr. Jones a log house. This log house is still on the claim, and in place of it as a residence there has been put up an elegant building. Claus Klindt was a peculiar man; he seemed always to be kind

and pleasant with other people, but with his family there was often trouble. He moved to Hyde county, South Dakota, in 1883, with his wife and one son, and a few years after that committed suicide by shooting himself through the head. The writer remembers in the winter of 1873, while living on his homestead, on a cold and bitter night, someone outside was calling for help.

C. F. Butterfield who was in the house, and the writer, went out and found the noise was made by Mr. Klindt who was lost, and did not know where he was; he was also about give out with the excessive cold. He had left home in the

early evening on horse back to attend a grange meeting, and when he was returning home had completely lost his bearings, got turned around as men will after dark on the prairie, and got lost. He was taken in and put to bed, but was all right in the morning. C. P. Jones also went to Dakota the same year with Mr. Klindt, and afterwards to the Pacific coast, where he now resides. A nephew of Mr. Mennig's, S. L. McCallum, while here in 1896, was curious enough over Jones' log house, to make a picture frame out of the wood.

The writer came to O'Brien county in the fall of 1870, and having boarded with the family of W. C. Butterfield at Durant, did, upon Mr. Butterfield's return from O'Brien county in the summer of 1870, catch some of the



O. M. BARRETT.

pioneer spirit and enthusiasm with which Mr. Butterfield was thoroughly imbued. I came up with Mr. Butterfield in September, 1870, and selected the southwest quarter of section 32 in Floyd township, and a part of which is now an addition to Sheldon.

The first act was to build a shack which Mr. Butterfield and myself erected in a day. It was 6 by 8, that is, the walls, and we laid a few boards across the top for a roof. A piece of an old horse blanket constituted the floor, and a window frame with every light out, was inserted among the sods in the south wall for a window, while a piece of board, laid up against the building, where there was an aperture, we called a door. In filing at the land office it was required to state that the building on the claim had a roof, a door, a floor and

a window, and as the government at that time was not exacting, and no one to cross question, this sod shack answered the same purpose as would an elegant structure, with mansard roof and bay window accompaniments. While we were building the sod shack, Mr. Butterfield discovered some one working on a claim about a mile away, in which he was interested, and was trying to hold for some relative soon to come out. He discovered this towards night, and left the writer to put on the finishing touches to this first habitation, while he



RESIDENCE OF F. W. CRAM, SHELDON.

went to drive off the invaders he had discovered. The writer then met Mr. Butterfield at supper time at his own claim where a house had been built, but could get nothing out of him as to the result of his visit. I learned afterwards that when he had gone to investigate he found Geo. Klock and E. F. Parkhurst. Klock was digging a hole in the ground and was down about five feet throwing the dirt out, when Mr.

Butterfield arrived. Klock had a pair of overalls on held up with a rope, a red shirt torn in places, and his face was covered with the prairie soil dust. Mr. Butterfield was a mild mannered man, but when he saw this interference with a claim he supposed was secure, his indignation knew no bounds, and for him he opened up quite a fusilade of words at Klock, and threatened everything he could think of. Klock stopped shoveling, straightened up so that Mr. Butterfield could get a square look at him, and the effect was terrible. Soon a volley of words went back mingled with oaths, and Mr. Butterfield was informed by Klock that he and Diligence would hold the claim. Mr. Butterfield inquired who Diligence was, and was informed that Diligence stood up against the wagon, which was a shotgun. Anyone who knows the parties can see there was nothing else for Mr. Butterfield to do but go, and this he did. Klock held the claim and proved up on it.

The writer returned to Wilton, in Muscatine county, where he was living, after completing the sod shack and filing in the land office. In the spring of 1872, with some others of Dubuque I returned, drove up from Cherokee, and about the first of April landed on the claim again. As we drove in sight of it we could see a building on the claim, which had been placed there during the writer's absence that winter.

Truly here was a dilemma, a difference in opinion as to who had placed that building on the claim, whether he was a pigmy or a giant, an innocent member of the Young Men's Christian



W. H. WEBBER.

Association, or a cow boy. Upon inquiring, however, in a few days we learned it was a Methodist preacher with only one arm. This, of course, settled the question of muscular supremacy, for we felt if we could not get away with a one-armed preacher, he was entitled to that quarter section, with the sod shack and its belongings thrown in. About two weeks after that we went to Cherokee for provisions, and while at the depot when the train came in from the east, the writer saw a one-armed man get off the train. He had the garb of a preacher, and the thought was, of course, here was the offender and the cause of all our prospective trouble, and not even his clerical position shall save him from a going over, and perhaps a trouncing if he has the slightest inclination to talk back. Some one knowing the circumstances and the parties, brought the preacher and the writer face to face and introduced us.



C. L. SOYSTER.

The preacher at once, without fear of man or God before his eyes, said, "So you are on my claim, are you?" The gall of the fellow was immensely audacious and for a moment we were paralyzed, not with fear but surprise. We recovered, however, enough to say we had moved a building up against his building and against its door; that we had three winchesters, four bowie knives,

an oak club with knots in it, and a bull dog, and that the first attempt he made even to go on the claim he would be slaughtered right there, and his miserable carcass thrown to the prairie wolves. This was said with dramatic pose, and in such a way that the preacher walked off, muttering to himself. He did come around, however, in about two weeks and mildly inquired if he would be permitted to haul his building away,

and was mildly told that he could. He sold it to Ed. Bache, in Floyd, where it still stands on Ed.'s claim.

The preacher was vanquished and peace restored. This was Rev. Ira Brashers, who was pastor of the M. E. church at Sheldon, and Sanborn afterwards, and was also postmaster at Sanborn.



RESIDENCE OF H. C. LANE, SHELDON.

Patrick Carroll, an honest, well disposed and substantial man, came to O'Brien county in the spring of 1870 from Illinois. He started with two teams and wagons with his entire family, a wife and eight children. They were three weeks on the road from their home in Illinois, to Cherokee, Iowa. They met several land agents in Cherokee, and in a multitude of these, the land seeker remains for a while unsettled in his convictions. One of them palmed off a bogus

claim upon a quarter section of O'Brien county land, for ten dollars, and this much experience Mr. Corroll had to start with. After remaining in Cherokee, they started north and camped for the night at Nettleton's place, which is remembered by the early settlers. They were then bound for Waterman, which Mr. Carroll had been told was quite a town, and he drove on the next morning straining his eyes expecting over the landscape to see church steeples and prominent buildings, and a metropolis of extensive proportions, not knowing that "Waterman" consisted only of the humble and unpretentious residence of Hannibal Waterman and his good wife and children. When they got to Mill creek they met two teams, with whose drivers they stopped to chat. Mr. Carroll inquired where Waterman was, and the answer came from an Irishman, who answered, that "A divil a bit of use was it for him to be inquiring for a town, in a new country like thot," and this news induced Mr. Carroll to go back a ways to their claim, which was done, Mr. Carroll then found a tire he had

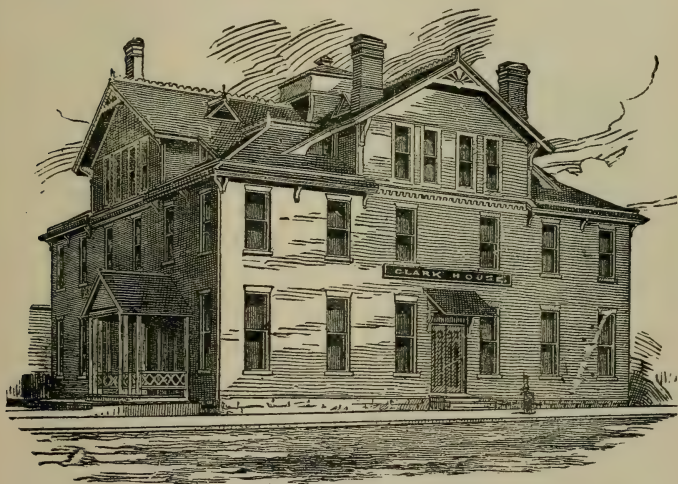


H. C. LANE.

lost from one of his wheels that morning in Mill creek. They camped at that claim all night, and got some water for themselves and horses by digging for it. The next day they got to Wallace Rinker's shack in Baker township, where they found Austin Sutter and Jonathan Egy. Austin was just going breaking with several yoke of oxen, and upon Mr. Carroll's inquiry for land, he left the oxen with James Carroll,

then a red headed boy of ten years, and located the Carroll family on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 34,

in what is now Carroll township. Mr. Carroll then dug a well and found water, took the covers off the wagons, and by this established a habitation, and lived in that way until he had completed a sod shack, which he moved into in September, 1870. The first thing soon after getting on the claim, was to go to Cherokee after provisions which he did, and the next thing was to trade horses, which he also did for a yoke of oxen. One ox was a Texas steer, whose propensities for all kinds of antics prevented his usefulness from being discovered,



CLARK HOUSE, SANBORN.

so that he was never yoked by them. Another ox fell into the well and was drowned, so that one yoke of oxen only was left to do the farming. They broke twenty acres that year, and off of this the following season raised a good crop of wheat. That fall Mr. Carroll worked on the railroad, grading, and from that on, continued as a farmer on his original claim. Mr. Carroll's wife died there November 23d, 1883, and Mr. Carroll died in March, 1896. The township was

named after Patrick Carroll, who it will be seen was its first settler. Sarah, a daughter, married John O'Donnell a thrifty farmer of Floyd township. Kate married George E. Bartlett, Maggie, John and Thomas are still living on the old home-



NELLIE JONES.

stead, and James who inherited the sturdy, manly qualities of his father married some years ago, and they live on the south half of the same quarter adjoining the old homestead. H. C. Holyoke who afterwards lived in Sheldon, and whom we call Deacon, took his claim in Carroll township in the fall of 1870, and establishing his residence there in the spring of 1871. He bought Frank Smith's claim which was on section 34, and

paid for it by learning Smith's wife the art of photography, so that Smith went to taking pictures, and Holyoke to raising wheat for the grasshoppers. Mr. Holyoke was a very sincere conscientious man of upright life, he died in Sheldon some years ago.

The writer in preparing this book, has had occasion to drive considerably over the county, and to one who drove these prairies some twenty years ago, the scenery now, in comparison, is beautiful and magnificent. Where stood the sod house and the usual 8 by 10 shack, there are now commodious and tasty residences, and groves, whose trees, dressed in their green and luxuriant foliage, add to the beauties of nature, and mark the landscape with a fascinating and dignified splendor.

The settlers of those early days and particularly in the first few years of grasshoppers were decidedly hard up. When

there was but little, if any income from crops, improvements to be made, and the family to be clothed and provided for, it was quite satisfactory if there was enough to eat. You would sometimes see a settler with his head tied around with piece of a gunny sack and very often in the winter time, this was used for protecting the feet. Clothing was meager and shabby, and corn meal with too many of them, was the principle diet. But after all, there was a feeling of contentment and happiness, there was no social distinction, all were on a level, and all struggling for the same end. Their clouds of adversity had silver linings of hope and future promise, and sometimes the hard struggles of life are happily borne, when he who must endure them knows, that he will finally reach contentment and prosperity. But the poverty of the settlers of O'Brien county



PERCY HALL.

in those early days, was not the poverty of the squalid poor of a large city, where the gilded carriage of Cræsus will dash dust into the eyes of hunger, it was the poverty of misfortune, it was unrequitted and unrewarded toil. It was where the settler had worked without return for his labor, but in either case the great world moves on with but little heed of its troubles and misfortunes.

During the last two years of old O'Brien, and after the removal of the county seat, there was something of a rush of settlement to the county. Then, there could be seen the emigrant wagons, reaching out for northwestern Iowa. They were called "prairie schooners," and a prairie schooner was, after all, a peculiar institution. They navigated sometimes

single and alone, at other times in numbers like a fleet of vessels at sea. This mode of traveling, too, when the roads are good and the party united and contented, is very enjoyable and certainly very healthy. These emigrant wagons are now seldom seen, and when they are they are bound for Dakota.

CHAPTER VI.

Up to 1873, the settlers of the county were able to get along: Some crops were raised, and it was a living anyway with all, and improvement and accumulation with some. But the dark days of discouragement and misfortune came in the summer of 1873, the year of the removal of the county seat, and continued for several years, as will be seen in a chapter elsewhere devoted to the grasshopper era. If ever men's souls were tried in an effort to live, and if ever the heroism of men was taxed to its utmost in the race of life, it was from 1873 to 1877 in O'Brien county.

There is much of individual heroism in common life that is lost to history, and which is not blazoned among the distinguished deeds which make some men famous, and their names immortal. Some military chieftain in the nick of time, and by natural genius and adroitness as well as personal courage, drives the enemy into general slaughter, and his government with fulsome praise sends his name down the ages, and all time has a hero fearless and undaunted. Sometimes the greatest of all heroic acts are manifested by one in the humblest walks of life, which find no recognition in the record of history, for it is only in the exalted stations of life that the names of men glitter on the scroll of fame, and much that is the most heroic of all heroism, dies with the hero. We have an old newspaper which recites the conviction and execution of a negro slave, in which case Henry Clay was the public prosecutor. The negro was a faithful servant, and had not been accustomed to the degradation of corporal chastisement. During a temporary absence of his master, he was placed under the charge

of a young and passionate overseer, who for some slight or imaginary offense, lashed him cruelly with a horse whip, and brought wicked blows about the head that were unmercifully given.

The spirit of the slave was aroused, and, seizing a weapon that was near him, he laid his overseer dead upon the spot. Soon after, he was borne to a place of execution, and the



E. T. LANGLEY.

pride of character he there displayed, was worthy of a Roman patriot. Being asked whether he was anxious that his life be spared, and, answering under a feeling of the injustice that had been done him, and under the fact that he was in bond-

age, he replied proudly and sternly: "No, I would not live a day longer, unless in the enjoyment of liberty." The pages of history might be searched from the beginning to the present, and nothing in the notoriety of preserved events would exceed this personal proudness and bravery of an obscure slave, whose words are lost in the din of pyrotechnic language, over names which were prominent with the people.



W. M. SMITH AND FAMILY.

Carrying the thought still further, one does not need to go to a battle field, or to find tragedies in blood for the world's greatest heroes. Many unknown in life, bearing their burdens under difficulties and under depressing circumstances, and under the crushing conditions of poverty and misfortune, are heroes, and the women who toil with them are heroines. The writer in the early seventies knew several families in northwest Iowa who were without money, and without friends,—for the world is cold and uncharitable to the borrower—

whose crops were an utter failure, and where existence was continued by living on anything that was accessible, and whose diet principally was corn ground in a coffee mill.

We, who are living in the present progress and prosperity of O'Brien county, cannot realize the crushed and despondent heart of many a mother, whose little ones, in the early days of the county's history, were crying for bread, and where but inch boards protected them from the severity of the winter, huddled around the fire made by twisted hay, and whose only hope was in a change, which the future, dark and doubtful, would bring to them. These early settlers who were thus battling against misfortunes of the country then, were heroes.

These early days were hard and trying to settlers who were endeavoring to make a home here, and establish a farm on the prairie. Most of them came without means, and depended on their grit and muscle to pull through.

Those that brought money with them, and were reasonably well fixed to start on, seemed to be the most unfortunate after all, especially when the grasshoppers came, for the reason that they did not hesitate to use their means in building good houses, and surrounding themselves with comforts and conveniences, expecting an early return for their investments. But when the pocketbook became empty, and no crops as expected, and no



C. S. M'LAURY.

value to land, they were not only discouraged but disgusted, and soon got out, while the fellows who started with nothing

were more inclined to stay it through, still hoping to realize and get return for their labor.

We can easily see how much grit and determination it took to stay here several years, one after another, without a crop at harvest time, and still stay another winter and burn hay and take chances on enough to eat. Money could not be obtained only on gilt-edged security at a rate of interest, from three to eight per cent a month, and sometimes at ten. Many a farm and much live stock and farm machinery of these early settlers passed into the hands of these money lenders; we cannot say unjustly so, but as a matter of business, because the money was due, the debtor unable to pay, and that insatiable Shylock, the chattel mortgage, seemed never to be satisfied.

During the years above mentioned, say 1871, 1872 and 1873 all the townships became settled, or rather had a settler, for they were not

even then, numerous enough to be near neighbors; it was only here and there a shack could be seen. In the year 1871 a few settlers came into the western part of the county, and from then on they kept coming.

Some few in Baker and Carroll in 1869 and 1870, but the first in Floyd in 1871. These did not increase much until the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad, now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha reached the townsite of Sheldon, which was July 3, 1872. From then on the western part settled rapidly, and government claims were soon all taken. In 1871 and until July 1872, the settlers in the western part of the county, did about all of their hauling from Cherokee, and some from



GEORGE F. COLCORD.

Marcus, except in what is Caledonia, and these mostly at LeMars. C. F. Butterfield, now of Sheldon, made the first track from Mr. Albright's, near where Primghar now is, to his claim near Sheldon, which is on section 4, in Carroll, and this diagonal road straight northwest was soon a regular traveled road. The home of C. F. Albright at that time was the general stopping place for the Floyd and Carroll township part of the county, and also of southern Osceola. The Albright house was not a large one, it was one story and small in size.

Sometimes if severe weather set in, what settlers happened to be there were detained for a day or two, and Mr. Albright and his wife were always pleasant and entertaining, and did the best they could for the number that were there, and with the conveniences they had.

The writer has seen the main room in the house at night, entirely covered with sleepers lying closely together, each



DAVID FALKEN.

with his own blankets, with some supplied by the house. They were generally tired and sleepy, they might not all have slept the sleep of the just, but they slept the sleep of a homesteader, and if anyone should happen to wake up in the midnight hour, he would hear a discordant variety of snoring which was far from musical. These trips made to Cherokee in the summer time, or in warm weather were very

pleasant, for the air was pure and the prairie beautiful, but during the winter, across an unprotected prairie and danger of blizzards, it was disagreeable indeed. Nothing but the stout heart of an ambitious settler struggling to make a

home for himself and family, ever could have stood it, and even with them sometimes it was almost beyond endurance.

A. J. Brock came to O'Brien county in 1870, and arriving at old O'Brien accepted a situation in the store of W. C. Green as clerk, and as deputy postmaster. L. G. Healy came the year following and settled in Carroll township, whose daughter Mr. Brock married in September, 1872. Jack (for this was what Brock was usually called), was afterward a partner in the store with Mr. Green; he left the county in 1878 for Arkansas, but a few years after returned to Iowa.

Mart Shea, who was afterwards sheriff, settled in Highland township, on section 10, in 1871. Mr. Shea now resides in Sioux City.

McAllen Green, father of W. C. and Lem, came from Illinois to O'Brien county in 1869, and settled on section

26 in Highland. He was elected recorder of deeds in 1870. Harley Day also came to the county in 1871, and settled on section 26 in Carroll township. He was afterwards a member of the board of supervisors, and now resides at Sanborn.

C. F. Albright was the advanced pioneer for quite a number from Durant, in Cedar county. Mr. Albright first came up in the fall of 1870, selected his own land, which was the northwest of 6, in Highland township.

Through the aid of W. H. Woods, he also selected several other quarters for different parties of his neighbors and friends, in and about Durant. Mr. Albright then returned to Durant, and in the spring of 1871, himself, John Hardin, C. F. Butter-



REV. C. ARTMAN.

field, Gus Herrick, Joe Kuehle and wife, M. Hosquin, commonly called "Frenchy," John Miller, Milton Gillispie, J. W. Walter, Theodore Leomaster, Chas. Toothaker and Homer Herrick, each one having a team of his own, left Durant about the 25th of March of that year (1871) to drive through, and arrived at W. H. Woods' about the 1st of April, and at Primghar townsite a few days after. When they got to Mr. Woods a blizzard set in, and they were kept three days, making about sixteen persons in a small room, and twenty-four



FLETCHER HOWARD.

horses in close quarters for a stable. The boys laid down and sat up alternately, and put in the time as best they could. After they reached Primghar townsite and were unhitching, a buggy drove up with two strangers in it, one of them was an officer from the Des Moines river country, who said he had a warrant for every man of them. It seems that while they were driving through Humboldt county, they passed a farm where there were two goats feeding around, and an axe sticking in a log of wood. The first

wagon touched the axe handle, causing the axe to fall to the ground. C. F. Albright, who was on foot, laid the axe over the fence in the field. The goats were frightened a little, and they wandered away, so that when the farmer returned and had seen this procession of wagons going along the road, and the axe and goats missing, he had every reason to believe that the high-handed outrage of larceny had been committed, and that his axe and goats had been gobbled by these parties.

He immediately sought a justice of the peace, filed an information, and a warrant was soon issued and placed in the hands of an officer, who was on the road the next day, following the fugitives.

As above stated, they were caught at Primghar town site, and confronted with the charge of theft. Surely here was a dilemma. Eight ambitious pioneers, former citizens of Cedar county, and these highly respected, men whose honesty had never been questioned, and who were striking out in this land of promise innocent of any crime as unborn babes, here they were listening to the reading of a warrant, in which John Doe, Tom Roe, and other like names (meaning the boys, in ignorance of their true names,) accused of the usual rigmarole of offenses, that they did, on or about March 30, 1871, steal, take and carry away two live goats and one axe, of the value of fifty dollars, and against the peace and dignity of the state of Iowa. They listened to the reading, but supreme in the consciousness of innocence, there was no fear nor trembling; indeed, Milt Gillespie laughed outright, and the officer was told, that he could search, and that if he found any of the property in the crowd, they would return and plead guilty, but Milt told him he thought Homer Herrick had one of the goats in his pocket, and Joe Kuehle



MRS. D. A. W. PERKINS.

had the other in his, and was not sure but what Charley Albright was using the axe for a jack-knife. Search was made, however, and of course none of the property found. The officer and the farmer returned, and when they reached the premises of the stolen property, there were the goats feed-

ing as usual, and the axe in plain sight. The O'Brien county settlers were fully vindicated. This was not the only trouble, however, they had in being under suspicion.

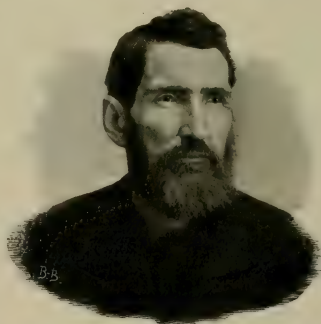
After starting and reaching West Liberty, near that town, Walters got an armful of hay from a cattle rack near the road, and for this by some impecunious farmer they were all threatened with arrest, and while near Newton they were afraid of horse thieves, so while camping for the night a part of them were on guard, while the others were sleeping, and then, some of the neighboring farmers thought it was a pretext to steal chickens. The boys arrived all right however at O'Brien county, with their skirts and consciences clear of any offense. Sometimes from a few roving and plundering gypsies in covered wagons, the occupants of every other covered wagon are supposed to be bent on plunder. These parties were soon settled on their respective claims.

They all did some breaking that year, and the next year put in crops, getting about forty bushels of oats, and eighteen of wheat to the acre. C. F. Albright has held several county offices, and now resides at Primghar. Mr. Husquin (Frenchy), a few years ago sold his farm, and moved to the Pacific coast. John Hardin did not remain here long, Walters is now living in Kansas, Milt Gillespie in the grain and lumber business at Sheldon. C. F. Butterfield is in the shoe business at the same point. John Miller died many years ago. Gus Herrick died in 1877. Joe Kuchle is at Hospers, Iowa.

At that time in 1870, and years following, the streams in O'Brien county, now mostly dried up, had quite a volume of water, and particularly in the spring they were troublesome to cross. In the fore part of 1871 Isaac Toothaker loaded his wagon with tools and grub, and started away from home to do some breaking. He was obliged to cross the Floyd, which at that time of the year, and owing to the rain, was quite a stream. When he came to cross, he hesitated about going, as the chances were a disaster in store for him; he drove on however and headed for the opposite bank. When

in the middle of the stream the water floated the wagon box off, which was carried down, and the rapidly running water seemed bent on taking it beyond recovery. Isaac landed with his horses, left them standing on the bank, while he undressed, laying his clothes on the wagon bed, and started down stream for his floating outfit, which he found, and going in, hauled the box sufficiently on the bank, to keep it there. He then returned for his horses, but when he reached the spot where he left them, he could find neither the horses nor his clothes, and here sure enough was an awkward dilemma.

He started for James Glenn's house a mile away, and when he got as near the house as decency would permit, he went through a series of motions and grimaces, and hollowed at the top of his voice, which led Mr. Glenn to believe that a wild Indian was there, with perhaps followers not far away. Mr. Glenn advanced toward him, and when he found out the situation, and that it was Toothaker, he rigged him up in a suit of clothes. The horses were found, and Isaac was soon enabled to go on his journey. These episodes in crossing the Floyd were numerous, and it is a wonder, that somebody was not drowned. Not long after the foregoing, Isaac Toothaker and James McFarland went to Marcus with two yoke of oxen, and a wagon, for a load of coal. Upon their return with the coal, they struck the Floyd where there was something of a ford in a diagonal course across the stream. The oxen started in, but their preferences were to go straight across, and this they did, and were soon in a heap at the opposite shore. McFarland loosed the oxen from the wagon,



G. W. DOYLE.

Toothaker got on the back of an ox on the front yoke, and finally managed to get them to the ford and across; the other yoke after making many ineffectual attempts to climb the bank, finally did, which left McFarland on the wagon, which was covered with water. He had to swim ashore which he did, and by means of ropes and chains, they finally dragged the loaded wagon onto dry land.

In 1871, Thos. Holmes came to O'Brien county from Jones county, the place where a calf case ruined several litigants. He came from England several years before that to Clinton county, Iowa. Before coming to the U. S. land office at Sioux City, he was informed that land here was all taken up. But he met there one of the Garrell boys, who referred Mr. Holmes to W. H. Woods. He was written to, and answer came back that claims could be had. Mr. Holmes then went to Cherokee, and there met Mr. Clark, and rode out with him to his place.

After Mr. Holmes rode that distance in O'Brien county, he was decidedly blue. It was sparsely settled, with only here and there a sod shack, and by reason of the prairie grass being burned over, there was an appearance of general desolation. He decided to get out of the county, and started back for Cherokee, when he met Mr. Stanley and Silas Pool returning from Cherokee on foot. These two settlers persuaded Mr. Holmes to return, which he did, stayed all night at Paine's, and next morning hunted the ever indispensable Huse Woods, who that day located Mr. Holmes on the southeast of section 22, in Carroll township. He then brought his family to Cherokee, where they remained until he built a house, which upon its completion was occupied by his family. Mr. Holmes remained in the township the following winter, and has there resided continuously since. Mr. Holmes was hailed out three times, and one year undertook to burn around his grain stacks to keep them from the danger of the prairie fire, but the fire started for protection got away from him, and a calamity he was trying to avert, happened at once, for the

very fire he started burned the grain stacks. Mr. Holmes came near perishing in the blizzard of 1871. Harley Day was teaching the school in that district where Mr. Holmes had two children attending. The blizzard came up in school hours, and it was felt by the Holmes family that the children would be taken care of by the teacher, but toward night, while Mr. Holmes was at the barn, the dog acted strangely and kept running in the direction of the school house, barking, which aroused a fear in the mind of Mr. Holmes that the children, trying to get home, were lost in the snow.

This caused him to start out, and he managed to reach Mr. Day's house, and found the children there. Necessity compelled him to return, as his wife, if he did not, would then be troubled in fear, that they were all lost. After leaving Mr. Day's house, and half way home, he lost the track. He did not lose his head, however, but stopped and calculated the direction of the house as to the wind, and finally concluding it blew directly from his house, he turned around and backed against it, and as there were no obstructions he calculated well, and soon brought up against the house. Mr. Holmes was out in other blizzards, and had other narrow escapes. He has filled important positions in the township and in the county, with all his official acts performed with excellent judgment, and unswerving honesty.



H. F. SMITH AND WIFE.

As stated, A. F. Herrick and Homer Herrick, came out with the Durant crowd in the spring of 1871. They worked breaking all summer, broke about 150 acres, and returned to Durant at the close of the breaking season. In the fall of that year, A. F. and his brother Frank drove up with a buggy, and reached Carroll township about the middle of September.

When they drove through Manson there was a political gathering, with much excitement, so that revolvers were drawn, and it looked for a while as though there would be blood shed. The boys wondered if that was the method of running politics in this part of the country. M. G. McClellan and E. V. Van Epps left Durant four days before the Herrick boys did, who, as they were driving over the hill near old O'Brien, saw McClellan and Van Epps driving in. Cornelia Herrick, a sister of the Herrick boys came in 1872, and took a claim; she lived afterwards in Sheldon and died there in 1895. Frank Herrick when he came, was not old enough to take a claim, but one was held for him in a legitimate way, which he did take after he became of age. This was the southeast quarter of 12, in Carroll township. Frank has lived in the county ever since that time, was in business at Primghar, and was elected to the office of county recorder in November, 1894, and to a second term in 1896, and is known as a very competent and upright official. A. F. Herrick was a careful, honest business man, of much industry and thrift, and at the time of his death in 1877 was highly respected. Homer Herrick now resides in Osceola county engaged in farming. Parents of the Herrick boys came to the county several years later. The mother died a few years ago, and the father now resides in Des Moines.

Geo. Klock came first to the county in 1869 from Cedar Falls, and first to old O'Brien. He came with his two brothers-in-law, David and Asa Harkness. Klock took a claim, first on section 20, Grant township, and held it awhile, and finally traded it for a horse and shot gun. He then settled on the northeast of 8, Carroll township. This was in December, 1871.

In the fall of 1871, E. F. Parkhurst came to the county, driving through from Rockford, Illinois. He stopped at Klock's place while in Grant township, and they came up to Carroll township together, in December of that year. Before they came up, one of Parkhurst's horses had died, the other he

traded for a yoke of oxen. Mr. Parkhurst settled on the northwest of section 8, in Carroll. Soon after each had established a habitation on the claim, they drove down to the Waterman for a load of wood each, Parkhurst with his oxen, and Klock with the horses. Not long before reaching the west side of the county, a blizzard set in. Klock drove on ahead, and was about perished; when he reached Mr. Butterfield's house on section 4, in Carroll, he got thawed out, and went on home, finding his way with much difficulty. Parkhurst poked along with his oxen, and finally reached M. G. McClellan's place, where he got warmed up, and struck out for home. When he reached the Klock shack he was about give out, and could not have gone any further. The storm was then raging furiously and the eyes of the oxen were blinded with sleet. Mr. Parkhurst rested awhile, and his own home being near by, he soon after was glad to get there. Mr. Parkhurst told Klock, at



JOHN M'CANDLESS.

the time, that if he ever lived through the winter, he would get out of the country. Mr. Klock has resided in the county ever since, and now lives in Sheldon. Mr. Parkhurst went into business at Sheldon in an early day, and was for many years of the firm of Jones & Parkhurst. He moved to Salem, Oregon, in 1886, where he now resides. He was elected to the Iowa legislature, and served one term. Mr. Parkhurst is a straight, square man, a jovial fellow and left many friends in O'Brien county when he moved to Salem.

J. W. McFarland came to the county in the latter part of May, 1871. He came from Wilton in Muscatine county, and

here, on account of the Durant crowd, which town is not far from Wilton. He was in doubt at first whether to come here, or to go to Kansas, but the choice was well made. He landed at Cherokee and walked to the plantation of W. H. Woods, lugging a large satchel considerable heavy, so that when he reached Mr. Woods' place, he was about give out. The next day he rode to Floyd township with C. W. Toothaker and Rolla Cook, selected the north half of the northwest quarter of section 34 in Floyd, made some improvement, did his filing and returned to Wilton. He came up again in February, 1872, and when he reached his claim, some other fellow by the name of Parks had built quite a large sod house, and a barn of the same material, and was living there with his family, in open defiance to McFarland and every one else. McFarland at once hauled lumber from Cherokee, built a habitation of his own, occupied it, and was ready for business when any question of the right of occupancy should come to an issue. Parks and McFarland each went about the ordinary routine of business, turning up their noses to one another when they met, and silent with one another as to speech. At last, Parks feeling that he had better surrender, did so, and McFarland paid him \$35 for the improvements. He then for a while lived with the Herrick family that summer, keeping house under wagon covers, with bows set up on piled sod. One night they heard an unearthly noise, and the county being new to them, they were somewhat startled. They got up, took the gun and then hunted for ammunition, but could find nothing but powder, so they loaded with nails, and probably in their excitement, up to the muzzle. They could see nothing however, when they got outside the wagon covers, and could hear nothing, so they went to bed again. A few nights after, when McFarland was returning from his own claim he got lost, and fearful of not being able to find the Herrick claim, he hollowed at the top of his voice, which was heard by the Herricks, and being unable to make McFarland hear, got out the gun and fired; this he heard, and got in, in

safety, but Homer Herrick went over from the recoil of the gun, loaded as it was with hardware. William McFarland, father of James, came in 1872 and settled on the north half of the southwest of section 2 in Carroll township. John Griffith a brother-in-law, also came in 1872, as also did Mrs. Sutton. John Griffith took the south half of the same quarter that William McFarland did.

D. N. Merwin and C. W. Merwin were among the first settlers. C. W. settled on the north half of the northwest of section 10. The last named settler came in 1873, and his brother D. N. came later. He bought the Isaac Toothaker 80. D. N. Merwin is still one of the substantial well to do farmers of Carroll township. C. W. is engaged in manufacturing brooms at Sheldon.



KEMPER & ELLIOT, BRICK BLOCK, SHELDON.

W. H. Knepper came to the county, and settled in Baker township in 1870, broke ten acres that summer and put up the usual shack. He had just returned from Texas to his home in Marshall county, where he had been with a team, and not being very much in love with what he saw there, settled in O'Brien. Returned to Marshall county during the

winter of 1870 and '71, and came back to O'Brien in the spring of 1871, where he was during the summer, and brought his family up in the spring of 1872, having built a residence in 1871. Mr. Knepper settled on the northwest quarter of section 4, and still owns the claim, and resides in Baker township.

Capt. Wm. Pursell came from Winterset, Iowa, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 4, in 1870. He left here about 1878, and now resides in Minneapolis, Kansas.

In the spring of 1872, Robert Cowan located on the northeast of 30, lived there about seven years, and now resides in State Center, Iowa. Along when the Sutter family came to the county, there came with them also J. W. Egy and his brother J. S., J. W. settled on the west half of the southwest of same section. J. W. now lives at Storm Lake.

Michael Kain, who still resides in Baker township, came in the spring of 1872, and settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 20.

Sarah Knepper, mother of W. H. came also from Marshall county, Iowa, in 1872, and took the north half of the southwest of section 4. Mrs. Knepper died in Marshall county in August 1878.

E. W. Rinker, who came with the Sutter family in 1870, settled on the southwest quarter of section 2. He married a daughter of Geo. Sutter. He died some years ago.

W. H. Snook in 1871, located on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 8. He came from Poweshiek county and lives in the east part of the county.

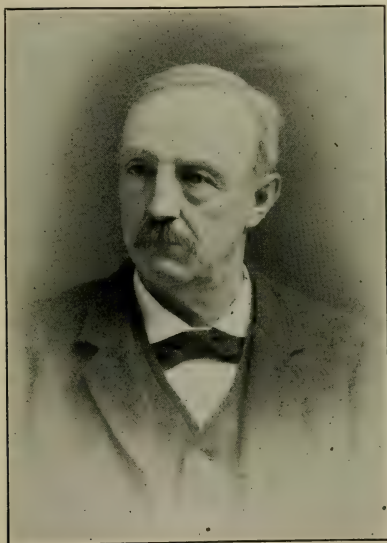
Geo. Benbow was an early settler in Baker on the northeast quarter of section 18, and still resides on the same claim, a thrifty and substantial farmer. Levi Dingley was another early settler, on the southeast of section 6. Levi was quite a local politician, and now resides in Montana.

On the southwest of section 8 Leonard Lambkin who was an early settler, still resides. From the uncultivated prairie he has made a beautiful farm, and is one of the substantial men of the township.

Henry Lemkuil settled early on the southeast of section 8, and is still there with a very fine farm.

John Sheets who also came with the Sutters settled on the south half of the northwest of section 14. He now resides in Sioux City, having left here in 1885.

James Thomas now resides in Dallas, Texas, who came to O'Brien county in 1871, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 8. He lived in Sheldon awhile before his removal to Texas.



W. W. REYNOLDS.

W. A. Welman, a son of D. W. came to Baker township at the same time his father came, in 1871. He settled on the east half of the northeast of section 12. Theodore Wells came in 1872, and took the north half of southwest of section 20. He died several years ago.

John Weacamp came in 1872, and settled on the south half of southwest of section 20. A few years ago he went to Arkansas, having been lured there by an overdrawn picture by land agents, but returned after a brief experience, and now resides in Sioux county.

J. G. Wheeler came in 1871, and settled on the east half of southeast quarter of section 22. He now resides in Des Moines. James Marston settled in Baker, on the southwest quarter of section 6 in 1872. Several years ago, while working on the railroad section between Hospers and Sheldon, the handcar upon which he was, was run into by an extra train,

injuring Mr. Marston severely. The company settled with him for the damage; he now resides at Sheldon.



E. B. MESSER.

C. V. Van Epps came from Durant, Iowa, first in 1871, in the fall, secured his claim, and built a stable. M. G. McClellan also secured his claim at the same time, and also built a stable.

After making some improvement on the claim, they, with C.

W. Butterfield and his Uncle Oscar, went to Cherokee by team, and from there on the train to Sioux City. While crossing Mill Creek, just before driving into Cherokee, the mules owned by Van Epps were bound to cross the Creek in spite of all efforts to get them to ford, so in they went, and nothing but the united efforts of all hanging on to the bed of the wagon,

kept the box on. They got pretty much wet as it was. Mr. Van Epps, as now, was called "Doc.," which created the impression that he was actually a physician.

In the spring of 1872, Frank Herrick was taken seriously ill with the colic, and he sent his brother Homer over after Doc. Van Epps, to come immediately. Doc. assumed the air of a physician, and having been in the army, knew considerable of the arts of amunition, told Homer to return at once and give a dose of twenty chicken shot, which Homer did. One cannot always account for certain species of remedies, which are poured into the human body in case of sickness, but in this case it is enough to say, that the shot did the business, and Frank was soon restored to health. Not long after this professional prescription, a settler by the name of Martin was unwell, and having heard of Frank Herrick's sickness and recovery, he too called



E. P. MESSER.

upon Doc. Van Epps for advice and treatment. Doc. felt that this remedy would not do in all cases, and that it would not be professional to play the shot racket twice, so he prescribed a pint of whiskey, and told Martin to take every drop of it. This prescription was according to the patient's liking, so he followed the directions closely, only that he doubled the dose, got gloriously drunk, and strange to say, the recovery in his case, was quite as astonishing as the other, for Martin got well also.

When Doc. came out in the spring of 1872, he at first occu-

pied the stable, as a stable and dwelling house. It was small, but he had in it the mules, two cows and a lot of chickens, a stove, a bed, and a large amount of family provisions, and lived that way until he built a house that summer of 1872. His wife came the following September. The settlers all about, knew that span of mules, mouse-colored, with all the mule propensities fully developed. They are still in the county, owned by some one in Carroll township, and are now nearly forty years old. Doc. settled on the southeast of section 10, and still resides in Sheldon.

Mr. McClellan died in 1889. He was an active, energetic man, and was highly respected. He settled on the northeast quarter of section 10. His wife, a pleasant and refined woman, resides in Sheldon. She was a kind neighbor, and her womanly qualities were well known to the early settlers.

Bert McClellan, a son of M. G., came through on the train by way of Marcus in the spring of 1872. He was but a boy then, and attended school after he came here. That following winter while attending school at the Pottinger shack kept by H. D. Wiard, they were caught there in that severe blizzard of January following. Mr. Wiard, his wife and fifteen pupils were there all night, and the next day lived mostly on frozen potatoes. Bert now lives on the old homestead, and is an energetic farmer and a good citizen.

The following, a few reminiscences of the McClellan neighborhood in Carroll township, were contributed by Mrs. C. V. Van Epps, a very graceful and interesting writer.

"The first death that occurred in the northwestern part of O'Brien county, was the bright, sweet little five-year-old girl of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. McClellan. This occurred on Christmas morn 1872, from that dread disease diphtheria, after an illness of only three days. After she had died, the first thought of the two neighbors, who were there, was, how shall we bury the child. There was not a coffin in the county, and no lumber nearer than Cherokee or LeMars, but finally Le Roy Hackett, a carpenter living three miles away, in Floyd town-

ship, was thought of, and was consulted. He happened to have some boards, which would do, and enough of these were brought down and made into a box, which was made suitable for a coffin. Mrs. Ben Hutchinson had brought fifteen yards of bombazine with her, out of their store in Durant, intending to make a dress of it. She contributed enough of this to cover the coffin, and Mrs. Wiard and Mrs. Van Epps, nicely and neatly with it trimmed the coffin, worked a wreath on the top with white silk floss, and worked the name 'Gracie,' the name of the child, in the center. Thus prepared for burial, the little one was laid away in the front yard of the McClellan residence. Some years after, the grave was opened, and the body removed to the cemetery; there was not much decay, and the name was still visible on the box. The next death was the only son of E. F. Parkhurst, who was taken sick with that same dread disease, diphtheria. This death occurred during that terrible blizzard of January, 1873. Mrs. Wiard and Mrs. Van Epps were called upon again to do the same kind of work, in covering the coffin of little Frankie, off of the same piece of dress goods, which was finally used, all of it, in other cases, for the same purpose.

In that same year 1873, on January 14, Mr. and Mrs. Van Epps' little daughter was also taken down with diphtheria, and the only doctor in this part of the county, who was a quack named Williams, was consulted. The railroad through Sheldon was blocked with snow, and there were no drugs to be had,



J. L. M'LAURY.

so the doctor gave the child kerosene, a teaspoonful every two hours, so that in all, there was given to her a pint, and strange to say she lived. When the child was quite bad, Mrs. Van Epps while stepping out of the door, with her eyes blinded with tears, fell, breaking one of her limbs near the knee. The same doctor was sent for, who came, and undertook to treat the fracture, and used some of the shingles from the roof of the house for splints, and knowing no better, he placed the sharp edge of the shingle up, and as the limb swelled, the shingle cut into the flesh. He remained all night with his patient. Mrs. Van Epps was in such distress, she kept telling him that it felt like a knife cutting her flesh, but the doctor would reply, that it was all right, she was only nervous, but would be soon easier. After the doctor went away the next morning, Mr. Wiard and Mr. McClellan, feeling that Mrs. Van Epps should be getting easier instead of suffering more pain, and both having had some experience in the army with broken limbs, went to work investigating the trouble, and found that the trouble lay in the manner that the shingles were used, so they put the thick edge up, put the bandages on again, and she soon dropped to sleep, and was easier. The doctor charged \$35.00 for this bungling operation. Mr. Van Epps had plenty of milk that winter, while most of the settlers had none. Their cupboard sat within six feet of the stove, but the milk would freeze solid in the pan, so that Mrs. Van Epps would thaw it just enough to remove from the pans, then breaking it, would tie up the pieces in papers or cloth, and send it to the neighbors. I think this was the first milk route started in O'Brien county, and certainly it was a new way of delivering milk.

The first school in the northwestern part of the county was taught by Rev. Wiard in Carroll township, who lived on section 10, one-half mile west of the Van Epps claim. He taught in his house, which consisted of a room fourteen by sixteen feet, with an addition ten by fourteen. The large room was used for a parlor, kitchen and school room, and the addition

part for a bed room. This being the only school thereabout, scholars came who lived nine miles away, and boarded with the settlers. On the morning of that terrible blizzard in January, 1873, when it was bright and clear, there were enrolled twenty-two pupils, ranging in age from 5 to 22 years. The blizzard began about 10 o'clock and increased all through the day, so that by 4 o'clock, the time school should be let out, it was so dark that the lamps had to be lighted. Mrs. Wiard prepared supper the best she could, from her meager supply of food. They kept fire and sat up until about 11 o'clock when they found the fuel was giving out, so the next question was, how they should all go to bed, for there were only two beds, and twenty-four sleepers to occupy them. But necessity is the mother of invention, so they took the two beds and made one on the school room floor, and made the bed as large as possible by using the wraps of the children. Then Rev. and Mrs. Wiard got in the middle of the bed, and the girls were put on Mrs. Wiard's side of the bed, and the boys on that of Mr. Wiard. The next morning when they got up, the storm had not abated; it was bitter cold, and every thing in the house was frozen. The breakfast consisted of frozen potatoes made into soup, and under all the circumstances they were glad to get this. It cleared off by night, so that most of the children got home, and Mr. Wiard made his way to the Van Epps ranch for something to eat for his family, and some fuel with which to cook it."



SCOTT LOGAN.

Mrs. Van Epps well remembers another incident of those

terrible blizzards, when there were no trees nor fences, nor anything as protection from the wind. It was the winter of 1880 and 1881. "The first blizzard of that winter commenced on the 6th of October, lasted for nearly three days, and as the farmers were not expecting winter to commence so early, it caught them in a sad plight with potatoes in the ground, corn in the field, and so much drifted snow it was impossible to use teams in picking the corn. Most of the farmers then had quite a start in stock, so they had to resort to all kinds of devices to get out any corn for feed, but most of them used small hand sleds with a box or a basket on the sled to hold the corn, and they also had to use corn for fuel, as the railroads were blockaded. During that winter Bert McClellan lived three miles south of Sheldon on a farm he owned, joining D. L. Ling. Bert's wife had a rag bee, and invited the McClellan and Van Epps neighborhood to it. There were three sled loads went, and as the roads were full of snow, they drove around by Sheldon to get there. Towards noon it looked storm like, and by 2 o'clock a blizzard had set in. As several had children at home, we decided to return at once, and arranged that the sleds were to start together, and keep together so as to not get lost. We got to Sheldon all right, but by that time it was quite dark, and after leaving Sheldon, and going across the prairie to Klock's corner, we did get lost and knew not where we were, for the horses seemed to be going around in a circle. Women with little children were stowed away in the bottom of the sleigh, and covered with wraps, and I with Mr. Whitmore who was driving in our sled, kept a look out for a light in some window. We let the horses have their own way, and finally after wandering around came up against old Mr. Whitmore's house, about 10 o'clock at night. We were indeed happy, remained there all night, and soon went to bed. In the morning when we got up, the snow was drifted above all the doors and windows, so that to get out, Mr. Pottinger, after opening the door stood on a table, and with a scoop shovel made a hole through the snow at the

top of the door then jumped through the hole, and soon had the snow cleared away from the doors and windows. As there was no fuel, nor any corn gathered from the field, we waited until the men with a hand sled gathered some corn with which to build a fire. They soon brought in this kind of fuel, with which we cooked our breakfast. It cleared off through the day, so that some of us got home, while others remained there a week on account of the snow drifts."

Among the first settlers in Carroll township, was Abel Appleton, who still resides on the original claim, with an elegant house and otherwise substantial improvements. He came from Madison county, Iowa, in 1871, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 36, with his family. Their daughter Lulu was the first child born in the township, who a few years ago married Will Bilsland, and they also live in Carroll township. The Appleton home is one of hospitality, and the womanly graces of Mrs. Appleton are such, that a guest always feels at ease. Mr. Appleton, familiarly called Abe, is one of the substantial men of the township, and highly respected by all who know him.



REBECCA W. PERKINS.

William Yaner came to the county in the spring of 1871, and settled in Floyd township. His wife died there some years ago, and Mr. Yaner moved to Wisconsin and died there, the date of his death we do not know. A son, William Yaner, lives in LaCrosse, Wis.

One of the early settlers of Floyd was John W. Wilson, who came from Marshall county. He had known J. F. Stone who was already here, and by him was induced to come. He drove up with his brother in a buggy, and arrived in O'Brien

county in November, 1871, selected his claim, did his filing in the land office and returned. He then drove up again in the spring of 1872, and did breaking on the claim that summer, returned to do his harvesting in Marshall county, and come to O'Brien county again in the fall. Sheldon had then started, so that lumber could easily be had, with which he built a house 12 by 16. The following winter he was in Marshall county, and returned again in the spring of 1873. Mr. Wilson has been through all the hard times, has seen the grasshoppers harvest his crops, and knows what it is to struggle with the hardships of a new country. He has been in Floyd township since then continuously, and now resides with his family in Sheldon. He has had experience with two new countries. He came with his father's family to Madison county in 1849, when the county was new, and when the nearest town was Oskaloosa, seventy miles away. Soon after their arrival, the family had the small pox, and were obliged to pull through without a physician. He says the hardships of pioneer life were nothing, compared with those in his Madison county home.

E. W. Bache came from Buchanan county to O'Brien county, in May, 1871. His coming here was from an acquaintance and relationship with Z. P. Freeman, who had settled in Highland township in 1870. There were with him Selye Stewart and E. C. Brooks. They had originally intended to settle near the Watermans, but not liking the country there, they fell under the guardianship of W. H. Woods, and by his direction came to Floyd township. Mr. Bache settled on the northeast of 26, Stewart on section 24. They did a little breaking, filed at the land office, and returned. While they were on their way, near Parkersburg, Iowa, in July, they came across Leroy Hackett, who had a team which was stuck in the slough. They helped Mr. Hackett out of his difficulty, and then gave him the number of a quarter section in Floyd township, which they recommended to him as a desirable claim. Mr. Hackett then drove up to this township and set-

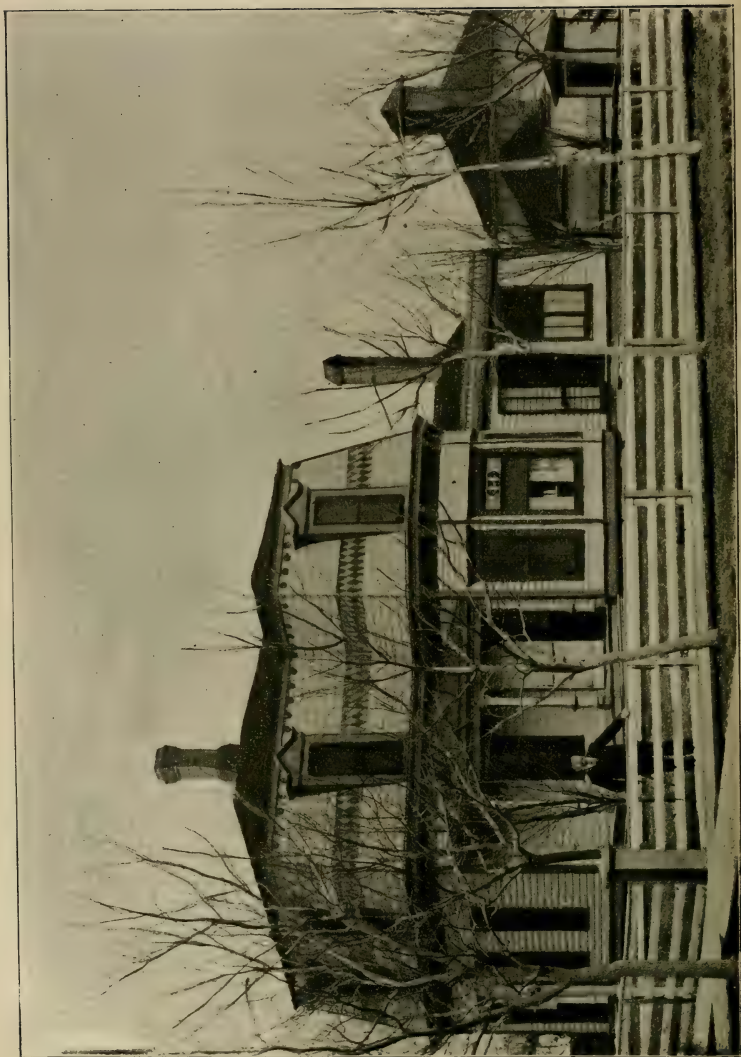
tled on the southeast quarter of section 26. He built that summer of 1871, a frame shack and veneered it with sod, then returned, and came back in the spring of 1872. Stewart, Bache and Brooks returned to Floyd township in October of that same year, 1871, bringing their families, except Mr. Bache, who was then a single man. These parties first occupied the Hackett shack, while they hauled lumber from Cherokee for the Stewart house, which was built that fall, and upon its completion was occupied by these parties, who lived there during that winter. Mr.

Brooks built on his own claim in the spring of 1872. Mr. Bache purchased Preacher Brasheer's shack, moved it on to his claim in the spring of 1872, and used it for his dwelling house. They broke that year, 1872, and put in some sod corn. B. F. Luce, who was also a sort of local preacher, came up from the Waterman where he had been holding down a claim, and settled in Floyd



JOHN METCALF.

township on the northeast quarter of section 36, in the spring of 1872. Mr. Stewart lives now in Sioux Falls, S. D.; Mr. Bache still resides in Floyd township; Mr. Brooks in South Dakota, and the present residence of Mr. Luce is not known to the writer. Mr. Hackett, who is a carpenter by trade, moved into Sheldon some years after, and now resides in Tacoma, Washington.



RESIDENCE OF W. C. HAGY, SHELDON.

CHAPTER VII.

John Hart came in 1871, and settled on the southeast quarter of section 14. Mr. Hart lived here continuously until 1896, when he moved to Missouri, where he now resides. Michael Burns came in the spring of 1872, and settled on the southeast of 14, also in Floyd township, and still owns the same quarter section, but resides in Sheldon, taking life easy. C. W. Miller came in 1871, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 14. Mr. Miller moved into Ashton, where he was in business for a while, and then moved away.

The writer remembers, in the spring of 1872, while driving to Shaw's store in Osceola county with C. F. Butterfield, that we came across Michael Burns and John Hart on Mr. Hart's claim, where they were dressing a steer which they had just butchered, and said they "were going to have something to eat, anyhow." They kindly contributed part of the critter to us, but the recollection of the writer is, that it was a piece of the liver. These parties for fuel would go to the Rock river in Sioux county, for wood, and sometimes to the Little Sioux. Upon their returning from one of these excursions in the winter of 1871-72, they drove by the house of Wm. Lyle, and while passing, were hailed by Mr. Lyle, who informed them that he had just got out of bed, and had been there for sixty-five hours, compelled to do so in order to keep warm, as they were out of fuel except a little which they would now and then use in order to cook some pancakes, which they cooked, and ate them in bed. The boys threw off a log, and left it at the Lyle household.

J. W. Davis settled in Floyd township in 1871, on the southeast quarter of section 22, and some years after moved away from the county. He was a blacksmith and had a shop on his claim. Daniel Gress came to Floyd township in 1871, and settled on the northeast quarter of section 2, and his son William on the southeast of 2. Mr. Gress lived in the township for several years, fighting grasshoppers, and now resides in Sanborn. Charles Whitsell on section 18, still resides in the county. C. H. Lingenfelter on section 6, moved to Wisconsin some years ago. Calvin Hook, the noted music teacher, on the southwest of 36, now resides at Hull.

David Chrisman settled also in Floyd in 1871, on section 2, on the southeast quarter. Mr. Chrisman now resides at Sanborn.

John D. Butler and his son John H. Butler came to Floyd Township first in 1871 and selected their claims. The first named settled on the northeast of section 22, and the last named, on the northwest of the same section. They wintered near Cherokee, and returned in the spring of 1872, and both built a sod shack. The first election held in Floyd township, was held in John D. Butler's sod shack in the fall of 1872. The writer remembers it as a low roof concern, without any floor except the hard ground. John D. Butler died some years ago, and his son John H. is in the draying business at Sioux Falls, S. D., R. E. Osborn settled in Floyd township in the spring of 1872, and built a good residence. The writer took dinner at his house on that election day in 1872. Mr. Osborn has resided continuously in the county since that time. He is a good player on the fife, and has been brought out on several occasions where martial music was wanted. He was wanted in Sibley on an important occasion, and John Douglass was a committee of one to procure his services, which was done by telegram. Mr. Douglass had forgotten his name, but remembered a tune he had heard Osborn play, called Nancy Dawson, so Mr. Douglass wired to Sheldon to the operator, to send Nancy Dawson up. The operator happened to be acquainted

with the facts, thereby easily knowing who was wanted, and Mr. Osborn with his fife left on the next train.

The first caucus held in Floyd, was at Mr. Bache's shack a short time prior to the election in the fall of 1872. Mr. Perkins was chairman, and Mr. Bache, secretary. There were present at this caucus besides these two parties named, R. E. Osborn, John D. and John H. Butler, and S. Stewart. The transactions of the caucus are not remembered by the writer, except that a central committee was appointed, and township officers nominated. When Mr. Bache first came to the township, the impression got abroad that Bache was a doctor, and in the spring of 1872, Geo. Klock went to Mr. Bache to secure his attendance for treatment for one of Klock's children, and was surprised when Mr. Bache informed him, that he was not a physician.

G. W. Copping settled on the southwest quarter of section 14, and E. J. Copping, his brother, on the southwest quarter of section 24, both in the spring of 1872. These parties were unable to stand the grasshoppers, and left the country some years ago.

C. H. Lingenfelter located in Floyd in 1871, and settled on the southeast of section 6 and returned to his former home in Wisconsin in grasshopper time.

Timothy Donaghue settled on the southwest quarter of 36 in 1871. He died several years ago, leaving a wife and several children, who still reside on the same claim. Mr. Donaghue had been a school teacher before coming to the county, and was a man respected very much by all who knew him.

E. R. Gregg in the spring of 1872 settled on the southeast



WILL WOLF.

quarter of section 24, and at the same time Eliza W. Gregg settled on the northeast of the same section. Both of these parties moved away from the county in the grasshopper days.

P. C. Hicks, a brother of A. B., elsewhere mentioned, settled on the northeast of 4 in 1872. Mr. Hicks has lived in the county continuously since then, and now resides at Sheldon.

C. W. Beach settled on the southeast of 36 in 1872. Mr. Beach died several years ago. Lyman Kellogg located, in the spring of 1872, on the northwest of section 6, and after living in the county several years returned to Wisconsin. In the spring of 1872, Stephen Bull settled on the northeast quarter of section 6. He died several years ago. H. H. Hawley settled on the southwest quarter of section 22, in the spring of 1872. Mr. Hawley was a local preacher, and left the county some years ago. On the northeast quarter of section 32, Robt. J. Cliff settled in 1872, and left the county a few years after. Also on the same quarter on the east half, J. M. Van Kirk settled the same year. These two last named parties did not settle, until the Sioux City & St. Paul R. R. reached the town-site, when there was somewhat of a strife for land.

When Van Kirk took his claim, there were several parties who wanted the same piece, and there were four of them started for Sioux City at the same time. They reached Sioux City on the same train, and there was nothing left by which to decide the success of one of these claimants, but a foot race, and this they all vigorously entered into, but Van Kirk was the fleetest and entered the Land Office first, yelling at the top of his voice "I want to file on the east half of the northeast of 32 in 97, 42, and, mingled with the last of his words, was a chorus of the same from the rest of them. The Land Office thought that they were besieged with a bevy of lunatics, but Van Kirk being the first in point of voice, was recognized as the first in point of time, and his filing was taken. Isaac M. White settled on the southeast quarter of section 32 in 1872. Wm. Witsell on the southeast of 36 in the same year. Mr. Witsell still resides in the county. On

the northeast of 28, John M. Wood settled in 1872, who now resides in Sheldon. On the southwest of section 28, John F. Walters in 1872, who died a few years after. Charles Witsell on the northeast of section 18, who afterwards lived in Sheldon and left the county some years ago. Edward Wells on the southwest of section 4, he also left the county several years ago. On the northwest of section 18, L. S. Stone settled in 1872. He planted a very nice grove which made rapid growth, so that Stone's grove was known all over the country. Mr. Stone left the county some years since. W. J. Anderson on the northwest quarter of section 4, located in 1871. Mr. Anderson left the county some time in the '70's. George H. Brooks was on the northwest of section 24, and he ceased to be a resident of the county some years ago.

Thomas Robinson was the first settler in Floyd, who came in May, 1870, took his claim, the east half of the southwest of section 30, broke three acres on it that summer, and put up a sod shack. He wintered elsewhere the following winter, returned in 1871, and cross plowed the three acres. He brought his family in 1871, and lived here continuously until the time of his death in 1882.

Mr. Robinson was a man of much thought, and original in his ideas, was a clever writer and could maintain a position with good argument. He was a very conscientious man, and his aim was to do right with everybody. He had seven children, David who lives in Sheldon, Columbia who also resides in Sheldon, Lovie who married Mr.

Blanchard, residing in Lyon county, Iowa, Mattie who married Rev. Gates, and Lizzie who married and resided in Boyden,



A. HANSON.

where she died in 1891. There were also two other sons, George and Henry. George is the oldest, and resides in Corning, Kansas; Henry was a Free Methodist preacher, a conscientious Christian man, who died in 1884. Mrs. Robinson now lives in Shenandoa, Iowa. The Robinson family were good neighbors, and were always considered very upright, honest people, the best of all recommendations. There were really no actual settlers in Floyd in 1870, although several came that year, and located claims and did their filing.

Three of the Potter boys, sons of Warren Potter, came in the fall of 1870, these were Lyman, William and John. They drove through from Wisconsin with their own team, from where the family were living, and landed in Cherokee, having stopped awhile in Buena Vista county. They had some relations in Cherokee who advised them to look O'Brien county over, so that in the fall of 1870, with Mr. Sprague to guide them, they landed in Floyd township, Lyman selected the south half of the southwest quarter of section 8, and John F. the south half of the same quarter. William was not old enough to file. They returned after making selection, to Cherokee, and from there to Sioux City and made filing in the land office. In the spring of 1871, they returned, built sod shacks, and became actual residents. Warren Potter, father of the boys, came in the spring of 1871. Mr. Potter settled on the south half of southeast quarter of section 8, and Eugene, another son, on the north half of the same quarter. In the year of 1872, the Potter boys raised some corn on the land broken the year previous, which was a very fine crop. In driving up from Cherokee they stopped at Capt. Tift's in Center township, to feed and eat their dinner. Water was scarce, and Mrs. Tift directed them down the run which they followed for a long distance, but this afforded them but little consolation, so far as water was concerned, and John finally said it was nothing but a "dry run," which name has clung to it ever since, for its now known by all of us as "Dry Run." The Potter boys still live in the county, as also does

their aged father and mother. Warren Potter, the elder, and his wife are very estimable people, and the boys are good citizens.

A. B. Hicks came in 1870, and settled on the southeast of section 18, in Floyd. He started the first grove in the township. He resided here for several years, then moved to the Pacific coast, where he died. Ben Jensen settled on the northwest of section 32 in 1870, put up a sod shack that summer, and lived here with his family until 1876, when he went further west. Swan Peterson also came with Jensen, and settled on the northwest of 32, and he also went west in 1876. He had a shack partly of sod with frame addition. He was an ingenious fellow, and the latter years of his residence here, was at work on a machine with which he expected to discover perpetual motion. When he went away he left the machine behind him, and to the neighborhood, it was quite an affair, with its complications of wheels and pulleys.

There were quite a number of settlers in 1871. Among them was a German by the name of John Meyers. He was an intelligent and industrious fellow, and settled on the east half of the northeast quarter of section 18. When the grasshoppers came in 1873, the poor fellow's heart was broken, and he was tired of life. In October of that year he committed



J. C. SKINNER.

suicide. He stood up before a glass in his shack, and where he could have full view of the act, placed the revolver at his forehead and fired; his position as he fell indicated this. He

also, upon a wide board, had drawn the profile of a man, and through the board, in the forehead of the profile, was found a bullet hole, so that it was clearly deliberate; it was "One more unfortunate weary of breath." A coroner's jury was impanelled, with H. C. Lane acting as coroner, who held an inquest at Meyer's shack, and decided the death as a case of suicide.

J. A. Brown located on the northeast quarter of section 8 in Floyd township in 1871. He moved into Sheldon soon after the town started, and was landlord of the Sheldon Hotel for several years. He represented his district in the legislature for one term, and was a man quite prominent in the county. He died in Sheldon, leaving his wife, who still resides in Sheldon with her son. Mrs. Brown is a lady very much respected.

A. Bloom settled in Floyd township in 1872, also Seymour Shryock, Mr. Carey, William Lyle and family, and Isaac Clements and family, Mr. Bloom retired from a farmer life a few years ago, and resides now at Ashton. Seymour Shryock went farther west, as also did Mr. Carey. Isaac Clements was elected county recorder, and has since resided in Primghar, where he is now engaged in the mercantile business. Mr. Clements is widely known in the county, as a man of honor and business integrity. William Lyle and family landed in Floyd township in April, and went through that April blizzard of 1871, with the banks of the Floyd river for shelter, under a wagon box cover, with a large family of children, one an infant, and getting along with the inconveniences best they could, they weathered it through, and came out alive. Mr. Lyle and wife, their children, now men and women grown, still reside in Floyd township. James Glenn came from Poweshiek county, Iowa, in 1871, and settled on the southeast of section 34, in Floyd. He came permanently in the spring of 1872, and in addition to his farming, had a blacksmith shop on the claim before Sheldon started. Being a good mechanic, his shop was very much appreciated and patronized, although he had to do considerable trusting out. Sometimes there was quite a gathering of homesteaders there, and as society was not

fully established, there was of course not much gossip, but the topic of conversation would be the glories of the county, and the great future there was in store for them.

The first settler in Franklin township was William H. Dummett, who settled there on the northwest quarter of section 8, and is still living on the same quarter. He was the only settler in the township, when J. H. Wolf formerly of the Sanborn Pioneer became a resident of the township, in the spring of 1873. Mr. Wolf was residing in Washington county, Pennsylvania, among the vine clad hills of the Quaker state, and came to O'Brien county first in 1872 to look the county over, and particularly to look at eight hundred acres of land in Franklin township, owned by his father-in-law. He was pleased beyond measure, and purchased a quarter section of this 800 acres for \$4.00 per acre, a good price then. There were only two quarters of Government land in Franklin township, the one taken by Mr. Dummett, and a quarter on section 34, taken by Ira Brasheers. Mr. Wolf brought his family here in 1873, built a house on the land, and became a western farmer in every sense that the word implies. Mr. Wolf had been in the printing business in former days, and the time came when there was an opening to indulge his newspaper ambition, which he did, by the purchase of the Sanborn Pioneer. He has remained with the paper ever since, and his ready and facile pen has established his reputation as a newspaper man, from the ground up. In 1896 Mr. Wolf purchased the



C. F. OWEN.

Primghar Bell. He has recently leased the Pioneer and removed to Primghar where he now has exclusive control of that paper, assisted by his sons Fred and Will who are also thorough newspaper men.

In 1871 John Chrysler settled with his family on the northeast quarter of section 8, in Liberty township. His daughter Dana taught the first school in Liberty township, and another daughter Manda also taught in the county several years. His son A. B. Chrysler lived on the farm for several years, was in business at Primghar and afterward at Hartley, has been county superintendent of the county, and now resides at Lake Park, in the newspaper business, and is also Postmaster. Another son J. G. Chrysler who taught school in the county, is now in the land business, also at Lake Park. A daughter Nell now resides at Mason City.

Other early settlers, are J. C. Doling and Ralph Dodge, who settled on 18, in Liberty township. Both of these men were quite prominent in the county, and were always on the side of the people. Mr. Doling was at one time treasurer of the county, and still resides on the same quarter he originally settled upon. Ralph Dodge was an active member of the board of supervisors at one time, and now is in business at Paullina.

Another early settler in Liberty township, D. C. Fields, settled on section 26, and is now in business at Calumet. Geo. Nelson, who settled on section 12, still resides on the same quarter; also, T. B. Nott, an early settler on 14, is still there. Charles Peaker, who settled on 8, is now in business at Sutherland. I. L. Rerick, who settled on 28, resides in Paullina. Among other early settlers in Liberty township were Joseph Alexander, on 14; J. H. Alexander, on 34, and T. J. Alexander, on 34. T. J. Alexander was treasurer of the county, and was a man whose honesty never was questioned. D. R. Barmore, on 24, was afterwards postmaster at Sheldon, and now resides in Chicago. Aaron Brown, on 34, was prominent in politics, and left the county some years ago. T. J. Fields, at one time a member of the board of supervisors, set-

tled on section 26, and C. H. Fields on section 20. Other settlers who entered land, were J. Bresee, on 12; L. C. Boughton, on 14; J. N. Burroughs, on 20; W. M. Breyfogle, on 20; W. M. Bunce, on 22; J. Cowan, on 24; W. W. Campbell, on 30; Thomas Downing, on 18; J. B. Davis, on 26; P. A. Emery, on 10; David Harkness, on 2; J. C. Hillyer, on 6; H. E. Hoagland, on 26; O. Higbee, on 28; J. M. Hickman, on 20; E. Hiatt, on 36; Horace Hoagland, on 36; J. B. Judd, on 6. Nathan Miller, who settled on section 4, and Joseph Manley, on 7, died several years ago. W. B. Morse, on 22; P. J. Nelson, on 18; Joel Rugg, on 4; James Rogers, on 10; T. Regby, on 12; H. C. Sperry, on 2; W. J. Stewart, on 20; E. A. Schofield, on 36; N. S. Tobin, on 4; Daniel Tuttle, on 28; Sidney Viers, on 28, were also original settlers. C. A. West, who was a physician and practiced in the county several years, was an original settler on the southwest of 2. Other original settlers were W. H. Wiltse, on 4; M. D. Wheeler, on 8; H. C. Wheeler, on 8; J. H. Wright, on 10; L. C. Washburne, on 28; H. H. Webster, on 32; H. Worden, on 34, and E. M. Young, on 36.



W. O. WOODBURY.



RESIDENCE OF H. M. WALDSMITH, SHELDON.

CHAPTER VIII.

GRASSHOPPERS.

It might be well enough at this time, to diverge from the general run of settlement, and say something of grasshoppers, and other calamities.

O'Brien county, along with other portions of Northwestern Iowa, was vexed with the grasshoppers. We call it the grasshopper, because there was no other name then, among the settlers, but the books gave it the name of "Rocky Mountain Locust." The natural home of these insects was on the barren table lands, along the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains. There, they deposited their eggs every year. In Wyoming Territory, Western Nebraska, Texas, the Indian Territory and New Mexico, the broods were annually hatched. In their native haunts they attained an enormous size, many specimens being three inches in length. Scientific men, who have studied the habits of grasshoppers, state, that each succeeding brood degenerates in size, and after three or four generations, the weaker are obliged to swarm and seek other quarters, being driven out by the larger and stronger insects.

These exiles rise and go with the wind, keeping the direction in which they first start, stopping in their flight for subsistence, and depositing eggs in a prolific manner during the incubating season, which lasted from the middle of June to the middle of September.

This region had been visited by grasshoppers before, but not to excite a great deal of attention, for the reason that the county was sparsely settled, and but a small area of land under

cultivation, and they came so late in the season, that small grain was generally out of their reach, but extreme north-western Iowa then was not settled, so that their ravages were further east.

They came in June, 1873, about the 5th, and came without warning and unheralded. They seemed to constitute a dark black cloud, and sent out a roaring sound, which in itself was an omen of disaster and destruction. The grain was then much of it green, but some of it approaching maturity, so that by cutting, it could be partially saved.

Where it could be cut, the settlers went to work, and it seemed to be a strife between the grasshopper and the settler, as to which would gather the larger harvest. Their enormous appetites caused them to devour and destroy rapidly, and this, along with their great vitality alarmed the settlers, and the destruction going on was appalling.

Surely, the advent of the grasshoppers was a problem, and it caused much discussion, as to whether the invasion was to be continued, whether this was the last as well as the first attack, or whether it was to continue indefinitely.

The grasshoppers had crossed the Missouri river, and commenced foraging in the bordering Iowa counties, and devoured the crops as they went to a greater or less extent. Small garden patches were saved, by industriously "shooing" them off, and guarding the patch with vigilance. There was much of a drouth the early part of this season, as no rain fell from the first of May, to the middle of June.

Grain did not grow much, but the grasshoppers did, and before the drouth ended, the crops were eaten and parched beyond all hope of recovery. About the middle of June however, considerable rain fell, and outside of the before mentioned counties, the prospect was generally favorable for good crops. The young grasshoppers commenced to get wings about the middle of June, and in a few days they began to rise and fly. The prospect seemed good for a speedy riddance from the pests. The perverse insects were waiting for an

easterly wind, but the wind blew from the southwest for nearly three weeks, so they staid and visited, and eat, and continued their ravages. Early in the spring of 1874, the eggs deposited the season before, commenced hatching, and the soil looked literally alive with insignificant looking insects, a quarter of an inch in length, but of enormous eating qualities. As if by instinct, their movements were toward the fields where tender shoots of grain were making their modest appearance. Sometimes, the first intimation the farmer would have of what was going on, would be from noticing along one side of his grain field a narrow strip where the grain was missing. At first, perhaps he would attribute it to a "balk" in sowing, but each day it grew wider, and a closer examination would reveal the presence of young grasshoppers.



C. A. BABCOCK.

In the spring of 1874, there were grave doubts, whether to sow any grain or not. Some settlers left the country at once, disheartened and disgusted; they who remained toiled on. Their ravages were the worst in 1874 and 1875, after that, they did less damage each year, and a remnant of them remained until 1879, but in 1880 there were none of them left. During their ravages the question was well considered, as to how to get rid of them, and what kind of warfare to make. All sorts of suggestions and devices were made with reference to the destruction of grasshoppers, during these years, and it was much of a topic of discussion how to get rid of them. Judge Oliver in a communication to the Sioux City Journal, said:

"Farmers should not be discouraged. Crops, especially

wheat and corn, should be put in as early as possible, so as to get a start while the hoppers are small. Late potatoes and beans may be planted as late as is safe, so as not to get up before the hoppers are gone. Young trees and shrubs, may be protected by a sack of thin cloth drawn over them, and tied at the bottom. I desire to impress on the farmers, where the eggs are unhatched, the absolute necessity of early seeding. One week's difference in the time of seeding, may make all the difference between a good crop and a failure."

The Sioux City Journal said: "The grasshoppers deposit eggs at the roots of the grass in the latter part of the summer or early autumn, The eggs hatch out early in the spring, and during the months of April, May and June, according as the

season is early or late; they are wingless, the sole power of locomotion being the hop. To destroy them, all that is needed, is for each county, town or district to organize itself into a fire brigade, throughout the district where their eggs are known to be deposited. This fire brigade should see that the prairie is not burned over in the fall, and thus they will have the grass for the next spring, to be employed upon the pests while they are yet hoppers,



E. E. HALL.

the means of sure death. To apply it, let all agree upon a certain day, say in April or May, or at any time when they are sure all the hoppers are hatched, and none are yet winged. All being ready, let every person, man, woman and boy, turn out with torches and simultaneously fire the whole prairie, and the work, if well done, will destroy the whole crop of grasshoppers for that year, and none will be left to soar their gossamer wings or lay eggs for another year."

As the grasshopper years went on, the people themselves, scientific men, and even the halls of legislation were discussing the important question, of how to drive the "hoppers" from the country.

Many and varied were the experiments. They tried smudging, burning the prairie, burning tar, digging ditches and every conceivable thing that the ingenuity of man could suggest, even to a huge trap in which to snare and catch them. Minnesota offered a bounty of a certain amount per bushel for them, and actually paid quite a sum, which helped the people along, but the idea of delivering a crop of grasshoppers for a consideration, strikes us now as bordering on the ridiculous.

These pests lasted about seven years, and the latter years of the seven they were much less troublesome than the first. The grasshopper business, too, had its humorous side, and there was much wit grew out of it, and the eastern papers made much fun of us, and not only that, but seriously charged us with being a country liable to such things, and hence unfit to live in. The county papers around in Northwestern Iowa, would each claim, that the other county was the worst.

Some agricultural house printed a card bearing the picture of a grasshopper sitting on a board fence, gazing at a wheat field, and underneath the words: "In this s(wheat) by and bye." The poet was also at work, and the following one of the numerous productions:

CHARGE OF THE GRASSHOPPER BRIGADE.

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
Right from the west they came,
More than six hundred—
Out from forest and glade;
"Charge for the corn! they said,
Then for the fields they made—
More than six hundred.
Fields to the right of them,
Fields to the left of them;
Fields in front of them,
Pillaged and plundered;
Naught could their numbers tell,
Down on the crop they fell,
Nor left a stalk or shell—
More than six hundred.

Flashed all their red legs bare,
Flashed as they turned in air.
Robbing the farmers there,
Charging an orchard, while
All the world wondered!
Plunged in the smudge and smoke,
Right through the corn they broke,
Hopper and locust;
Peeled they the stalks all bare,
Shattered and sundered;
Then they went onward—but
More than six hundred.

Since these grasshoppers days, the old settlers can see what they missed by the following, recently published:

“Some very important uses for grasshoppers have recently been discovered. There would seem to be no reason why they should not be applied to commercial advantage in the event of a plague this year. Some years ago four quarts of liquid, expressed from a half bushel of “hoppers” under a cheese press, were shipped in a glass from Spirit Lake, Iowa, to Prof. William K. Kedzie, of the Kansas State Agricultural College. He made a complete analysis, and by distilling the juice with sulphuric acid, obtained a colorless limpid solution of formic acid. Now this acid is very valuable, having a present market quotation of sixty cents an ounce. It is not only employed in medicine to a considerable extent, but it is also utilized in the laboratory to reduce salts of the noble metals, gold and silver and platinum. Hitherto it has always been extracted from red ants, but the possibility of getting it in large quantities from grasshoppers, suggests a method for employing these insects to an unlooked for advantage. An interesting feature of the analysis was the discovery of a certain amount of copper in the liquid. This metal has been found in the blood of other animals, particularly in that of the horseshoe crab, which always furnishes a trace of it. It is not suggested, however, that the grasshoppers would assay sufficient amount of copper to the ton, to make it worth while to smelt them.

A while ago, Prof. C. V. Ripley, United States entomologist, sent a bushel of grasshoppers, freshly caught and scalded, to

Mr. Bonner, a St. Louis caterer. The latter made soup of them, which was pronounced perfectly delicious by many people who were afforded the opportunity of tasting it. It closely resembles bisque. Mr. Bonnet declared, that he would gladly have it on his bill of fare every day, if he could only obtain the insects. His method of preparing the dish, as described by himself, was to boil the hoppers over a brisk fire, seasoning them with salt, pepper and grated nutmeg, and occasionally stirring them. When sufficiently done, they were pounded in a mortar with bread fried brown; then they were replaced in the saucepan and thickened to a broth, which was passed through a strainer before being served. Professor Riley treated some friends of his on one occasion to a curry of grasshoppers, and grasshopper croquettes, without informing them as to the nature of the banquet, but an unlucky hind leg, discovered in one of the croquettes, revealed the secret.

Owing to these grasshoppers, the people were unable to meet their obligations. It was easy for a while to contract debts, but there was no money to pay them. Eastern creditors waxed wroth over



F. A. WADE.

notes given for farm machinery, long past due. Several of these houses sent special agents here, who drove out among the settlers, and were confronted with poverty, and saw only a struggle for bread. One of these agents took back a photograph of a homesteader, with his feet wrapped in gunny sack-ing, and his general appearance in accordance with it.

The house understood the situation. Chattel mortgages

were given, sometimes upon everything the settler had on earth, even to the baby clothes and the coffee mill.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting in September, 1876, petitions were presented, asking that the taxes of a resident be declared unavailable. This was beyond the power of the board as a matter of law, but still a moral obligation was imposed upon them, and soon after, the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS, O'Brien county is as yet but sparsely settled with an honest, intelligent and energetic class of inhabitants, representing various portions of the older states of the union, and are occupying and improving government lands under and by virtue of the several Homestead Acts, and,

WHEREAS, for the past two or three years the country in common with adjoining counties in Iowa, Minnesota, Dakota and Nebraska, have been visited by the mountain locust or grasshopper to such an extent, that the hard earned substance of the people of this beautiful region has been wasted and consumed, by the above named voracious insects, and,

WHEREAS, the entire population of a section of country in the above states in the Northwest are now in needy circumstances, by reason of loss of crops. Therefore,

Resolved; that we, as said Board of Supervisors, hereby respectfully ask our Representatives in Congress to introduce such a bill as they may deem advisable, setting forth the condition of the country, and the needs of the people, and praying that Congress adopt such measures as may seem just and equitable, and that a commissioner be appointed to visit the Great Northwest for the purpose of collecting statistics in the ravaged districts, and that such means be adopted as may prove a speedy and permanent destruction of the hopper pest.

These taxes were most of them paid afterwards, but it gave the settler time by way of postponement.

To show, as a sample of some of the notes the poor homesteader was asked to sign during these grasshopper days, the following actually came under the writer's observation, but was probably a burlesque:

"-----after date, for value received -----
 promise to pay ----- or order ----- dollars.
 Without relief from appraisement, stay or exemption laws,
 and in case suit is instituted for its collection, anything and
 everything in my pos-
 session can be levied
 upon and sold, including
 the last suit of clothes,
 the school books and
 the food of the children,
 with the coffin or coffins
 any of the family may
 be buried in; and in case
 that after every article
 is sold, and there re-
 mains anything due on
 the note, I agree that
 the services of myself
 and family shall be sold,
 until the demands of
 this note are satisfied.
 And I further agree,
 that in case suit is instituted for its collection, to pay reasona-
 ble attorney's fees, together with board bills, hack hire, saloon
 bills, and other miscellaneous expenses of himself and family
 and near relatives while suit is pending. And I further agree,
 to live on corn bread and sorghum molasses from date, until
 the demands of this note are satisfied, with interest at the rate
 of ten per cent, payable annually."



J. A. WILCOX.

RELIEF.

Soon after the coming of the grasshoppers, there was raised a hue and cry for relief. The relief movement started in Osceola county, at Sibley, from a division in some other society pertaining to homesteaders.

The American people are not slow in pouring in their contributions to some unfortunate portion of the country, which is

suddenly stricken with some calamity, as the Chicago fire or the Johnstown flood. It was a matter of much discussion at the time, whether it were not better for the county, even as poor as it was, to provide for such of the county as needed it, rather than publish it to the world, that they were in a condition of poverty and needed help. Such, however, as opposed it at first, were swept away in the general current of clamor to get it.

Too often in such matters of relief, the "cheeky" ones, less deserving, get it, while the actually needy and modest applicants, fail to get their share. Fraud, also, almost always enters into its receipt and distribution, and in the case of O'Brien county, while considerable money was sent by mail, no report was ever made of receipts and disbursements, and if there was no stealing, there surely was an opportunity.

The state senate of 1873-74, appointed a committee to visit Northwestern Iowa with reference to legislative action, for the purpose of securing a loan with which to buy seed grain. December 3, 1874, Geo. D. Perkins, senator from Woodbury county, and Samuel Fairall, senator from Johnson county, went to Sibley and held a conference with the people. They examined the auditor's books, in order to ascertain the financial condition of the county, and the feasibility of the county issuing warrants for the purchase of grain, and ascertained that the county could not obtain the supply needed from its own resources.

These men expressed themselves, as wishing that the entire general assembly might be there, and see for themselves, and promised that they would make an appeal for its sympathy, and to its patriotism, for action in the matter. A bill was presented by Mr. Perkins, asking an appropriation of \$105,000 for the purchase of seed grain, and expenses of three commissioners to purchase and distribute; \$5,000 out of the amount appropriated, to be for expenses. Under this bill the money was to be in the nature of a loan, which the parties were to pay back.

After discussion, a bill was agreed upon to donate, instead of loan, \$50,000 to the northwest counties, and this bill passed both houses and became a law. Out of this donation O'Brien county got its share. The Legislative Committee, Messers. Brown and Tasker, arrived in Sheldon in March, 1874, and "opened court." They were armed with blanks, requiring the settler to state where he lived, whether he was owner or renter, and how many acres he had broken; also that he had no seed, no money to buy the seed with, and that he would use the seed for sowing. They also required testimony where one's word was not considered good, and admonished each and all, that the penitentiary stared them in the face, if they swore falsely. This legislative tribunal did their work and went home. On March 27, 1874, after the relief business had undergone

its usual trials and vexations, and charges of fraud had gone around, and considerable discontent and dissatisfaction, the following instructions were issued by General Baker to committee:

"In the distribution of all supplies the utmost caution and care must be exercised, and only the really needy must be supplied, and they must be careful to save something on reserve for emergency, or in the case of sickness. In order to



RESIDENCE OF E. E. HALL, HARTLEY.

conform to the above instructions, the committee will require each applicant for aid, to take and subscribe the following oath:

"-----, Iowa, -----, 1874.

"I, ----- do solemnly swear, so help me God, that I have not flour or other provisions sufficient to last my family one week, and that I have no means, on hand or at my command, to procure subsistence for my family.

"-----."

Soon after this, which was in March, 1874, the relief business was ended. On March 12, 1874, the State Committee issued the following:

"DES MOINES, March 12, 1874.

"To the Public: The undersigned would state for the information of all concerned, that all supplies in our possession for the northwestern settlers, will be distributed by April 1, 1874.

There may be a small amount left on hand at that date, but hardly worth consideration. The settlers and committee must now act most cautiously, and govern themselves in accordance with the existing condition of supplies. Any Grange, or other benevolent people who have anything to forward, should do so at once. All our advantages on railroad lines will probably cease by the date above designated.

And here in conclusion, we wish to thank the railroads, express companies and telegraph companies, for all the great favors they have done the northwestern settlers, in forwarding the generous donations of our benevolent people.

N. B. BAKER.

J. D. WHITMAN,

R. R. HARBOUR,

D. W. PRINDLE,

State Grange Committee.

After this, there was a meeting closing the matter up, and concluding with sort of a love feast, with speeches by Gen. Baker and others. Mr. Baker was manager-in-chief of the relief campaign.

There was a county committee which had general charge of the county, and also township committees, who attended in detail to the distributions. Carloads of corn, flour, lumber, merchandise, and leather for tapping boots, were shipped in. Cast off clothing and old shoes, baby clothes, and all sorts of conceivable articles were part of the relief goods.

There are men in O'Brien county today with comfortable homes, and with plenty of this world's goods, who were eager at that time to get even a bushel of corn, and Robert J. Lynch in Sioux county has the names of several such in his county, whose distributing point was at Sheldon. There was a great deal of wrangling over the goods, some charging favoritism on



RESIDENCE OF F. G. TENNANT, HARTLEY,

the part of the committee, and others charging actual theft. There was some stealing of the goods going on, and an amusing incident in the theft of flour is told in a chapter on courts. The relief campaign had its run, and after merchandise stopped coming, the people lived during these grasshoppers times, not with luxuries, but with enough to eat, and clothes to wear.

There was not only an era of grasshoppers and of relief, but of chattel mortgages as well. An ingenious settler who had gone down under a load of them, thus soliloquized at the time:

"In the whole range of sacred and profane literature there is nothing recorded which has such strong propensities as a good healthy mortgage. A mortgage can be depended upon

to stick closer than a brother. It has a mission to perform which never lets up. Day after day, it has not the slightest tendency to slumber, nor impair its vigor in the least. Night and day, on the Sabbath, and in seasons of holiday without a moments time for rest or recreation, that bitter offspring of its



DR. D. T. STEWART.

existence, interest, goes marching on. The seasons may change, days run into weeks, weeks into months, months swallowed up into advancing years, but that mortgage stands up with sleepless vigilance, and the interest a perennial stream, running ceaselessly on, like a huge night mare eating out the sleep of restless slumber. The mortgage rears up its gaunt and hungry front in perpetual torment to the miserable mortgagor, who is

held within its pitiless clutch. It holds its poor victim with the relentless grasp of a giant, not one hour of recreation, nor a single moment to hide from its hideous presence. A genial savage of mollifying aspect while the interest is paid, a very devil of hopeless destruction when the payments fail."

Even in grasshopper times, when crops were generally destroyed, there were cases where there was a large area of crops in a body, that did not suffer so much. On the Sunny Side farm, in Floyd township, managed by Gen. J. W. Bishop, there was farming on a large scale. In 1875, Gen. Bishop, in order to make it manifest that O'Brien county soil, with all its bad notoriety, was profitable, published the following statement of the yield of 600 acres in Floyd township:

1875.		Dr.	Cr.
October.	To plowing, @\$1.50 per acre-----	\$ 900.00	
March	" 900 bu. of wheat, @90c.-----	810.00	
April	" labor of men an teams seeding-----	593.00	
August	" 114 days' labor binding and shocking, @\$3.00 per day -----	342.00	
"	" 44 days' drying wheat in shocks, @\$2.25 per day -----	99.00	
"	" 23 days' pitchers in stacking, @\$2.25 -----	51.75	
"	" 26 days' stackers, @\$3.00-----	78.00	
"	" 46 days' team and driver, @\$4.50 -----	207.00	
September	" 99 days' men in threshing, @\$2.00-----	198.00	
"	" 100 days' teams in threshing, @\$3.50-----	350.00	
"	" 84 days' board machine men and teams, @\$1.00	84.00	
"	" pay threshing machine, 11c.,—298 bu. @4½c.	308.41	
"	" 87 days hauling wheat to station, @\$3.50----	304.50	
October	" use and wear of harvesters, seeders, plows, etc. estimated at-----	862.74	
	Interest computed at 10 per cent on money ex- pended as above -----	211.60	
Total expense of crop (@\$9.00 per acre)-----		\$5,400.00	
Yield, 11,298 bushels of wheat, machine measure, equal to about 11,000 bushels cleaned wheat as weighed into ele- vator, @80c.-----			\$8,800.00
Average receipts, \$14.66 per acre.			

BLIZZARDS.

Among other calamities of an early day were blizzards.

The word blizzard is of western origin, at any rate as to permanent use. The eastern papers for awhile, were in doubt what a blizzard was, although there was no doubt in the mind of an O'Brien county settler. Often they came without warning. It can be imagined, with light snow upon the ground say a foot or so, and then a howling northwest wind and the mercury below zero, about what one would have to encounter. This too, upon an unprotected prairie, settlers' shacks far apart, and no shelter, and the blinding snow so thick, that one could not see an object 10 feet away. People have been lost in blizzards between their house and barn, only apart the ordinary distance.

In a settled county with conveniences and neighbors, and

no necessity for going abroad, a blizzard is but an ordinary snow storm, but in a new county, and on an unprotected prairie, a blizzard for those who are out in it, means a terrible hardship, and too often death. In January, 1872, one of the worst of these swept over Northwest Iowa. Not far from the O'Brien county line in Osceola county, quite a number perished in the blizzard of 1872. One fellow by the name of Nagg, leaving his family out of provisions, started with a hand sled for Rodgers store at Sibley for a supply. He left the store with a few needed and indispensable supplies, and started out for home, but after a few miles out, he was overtaken by the blizzard. He was a poor man and thinly clad for such weather, but with a thought for his loved ones he pressed on, until becoming numb and senseless from the cold, he lay down and died. The body was found in March. The unfortunate death of this early settler in our neighboring county, is but an experience which was the lot of many others, and the number of them, and the full extent of their suffering will never be known. There was a terrible blizzard in 1871, but owing to the few settlers in O'Brien county then, there was no loss of life.

Most every winter the settlers experienced a blizzard, and some of them were exceedingly severe. John Miller was overtaken with one in 1872 at Mill Creek. He was coming from the eastern part of the county with a load of flour, and finding that he could not reach home, he threw the flour out, and made somewhat of a lively race for awhile with his empty wagon, but soon the snow was too much for that, so he unhitched and rode one horse leading the other, and when he got home was just about exhausted. In 1872 also, a young man by the name of Fred Beach, an acquaintance and friend of W. H. Woods, coming from Iowa city to visit Mr. Woods, and look the country over with a view of settlement, left old O'Brien on foot, and had along with him a pup dog sent to Mr. Woods by some friend, also had quite an amount of mail matter for the settlers on section 8 in Waterman. He had taken the direction, but after starting out, followed the wrong creek,

and found out his mistake, which caused his return to a house several miles back to inquire again for the road. He started again, and soon after he was on the road a few miles, a blizzard set in, and of course this bewildered him, leaving him in doubt which way to go. No one will ever know the anxiety and suffering he experienced, for he never reached any habitation alive. Death came to his relief, and with naught but the drifting snow for his pillow, he breathed his life away upon the storm-swept prairie of O'Brien.



P. R. BAILEY.

When it became known that he had left old O'Brien for Mr. Woods', and had not reached there, the settlers turned out after the storm was over, to find him. He was found a few days after, frozen and his face buried in the snow. The dog had crawled in a coat pocket, and had died with his master.

In the January, 1888, blizzard, north of Paullina in Dale township, Mrs. Anderson, her ten year old son and her aged mother perished, and the bodies were found in the snow drifts about forty rods from the house. It was supposed they became frightened in the storm, and started for a neighbors, but becoming exhausted could go no further. The daughters' love for her mother showed itself, for, from appearances Mrs. Anderson had taken off her own wraps, and placed them about the old lady. About two miles from them in Carroll township, Miss Bisland a school teacher and her sister, were caught on the prairie and perished, while their father and brother

were found benumbed and nearly dead in a hay stack. South of Paullina Earnst Lustfelt living with F. G. Frothingham was at the barn milking when the storm struck, and feeling that it would be worse, started home, lost his way and spent the night in wandering around, but about three o'clock in the morning found a fence which he followed up, and landed at the house of M. T. Taylor two miles distant. When he arrived there, he was so overcome with the cold, that he was revived with difficulty. A few miles north of Sutherland a woman and her babe, attempting to cross the road to her brother's, sank exhausted in the snow and died.

I. L. Rerick, L. A. Douglass and H. Godfrey of Paullina, were caught in the storm going home from Primghar, lost their way and struggled with the storm until nearly exhausted. They found a fence at last which they followed, until Mr. Godfrey's house was reached. Sam Norland east of Paullina was caught out in the storm, but finding a straw stack dug a hole in and crawled into the hole, and thereby escaped death.

The thermometer, which for some hours previous had been twenty degrees above zero, began a swift decline, and at six o'clock on the morning of Friday was from 36, to 40 below. There had been such a heavy fall of snow, and it had been so mild and warm, that a strong wind was all that was lacking to precipitate a blizzard. This came with such suddenness and such force, and it grew cold so rapidly, that a great many people were caught out, who otherwise would have been safely in doors.

No such storm had ever before been witnessed in this region. It was brief in comparison with others, but vastly more furious and destructive.

A recital of thrilling experiences of those who were lost in the storm, but who survived the terrible ordeal, chills the blood in ones veins. The agony endured by those lost and perishing, must be imagined.

The details in such cases are sickening. In Baker township about eight miles south of Sheldon, Mrs. Kjarmoe and

Thomas Kjarmoe's wife, sister and child, perished, and on Saturday their three bodies were frozen stiff in the snow, forty rods from their residence. From appearances, these three living alone, had become frightened at the fury of the storm on Thursday night, and left their home for Mrs. Anderson's brothers.

When found, the old lady was sitting against a wire fence, covered with her daughter's wraps, but which the angry blasts had whipped to shreds.

A few rods from her daughter, she had sunk into a drift, and falling over backward perished, while the little son rolled a few feet further and was found curled up in death.

Calvin R. Hurd, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hurd was lost while returning from school to his home six miles northwest of Sheldon. He was found within a few rods of Mr. Winslow's house, and had struggled against the storm until he finally surrendered. He was about eighteen years of age, and was a bright, ambitious fellow anxious for an education. His parents now reside in Sheldon.

E. B. Pike left Sheldon for Hull with two horses about four o'clock, and the storm overtook him at the railroad crossing, four miles west of town. He was lost, and wandered about over the prairie until towards morning, when

he came across a hay stack, where he tarried and industriously pulled hay until morning, to keep up a circulation and save his life. He was badly frost bitten, and that night's experience was frightful. His escape from death was wonderful.



FRANK PATCH.

He turned his horses adrift to look out for themselves, and both animals were alive and well the next day, one of them being dug out of a snow drift. Pike had on two overcoats, or rather one overcoat and a rubber coat, and being an old timer and stout, was able to pull through.

F. N. Derby, O'Brien's county treasurer, got lost on his way home, distance about eighty rods from the court house, and was out in the storm two hours. He finally caught a glimpse of the light his wife had thoughtfully placed in the window as a beacon, and reached his home. He was so chilled and exhausted, that it was only the prompt use of stimulants, and vigorous rubbing of his body and limbs, that he was saved.

Some eight or ten miles south and east of Sheldon, occurred one of the saddest cases in the whole list. Will Bisland a squatter, had been to Primghar attending court. On his way to the county seat in the morning, he stopped at his father's home four miles from his own home, and left his sister and housekeeper, Miss Jennie Bisland, who had accompanied her brother that far, to spend the day with her parents and her sister, Miss Matilda. Jennie was 25 years old, Tillie 22. On his return from court at night, Will stopped at his father's, and Tillie got aboard the sleigh with Jennie, intending to go home with her and spend the night. Will started the team, and after they had gone about two miles, about half the distance between the two homes, the storm struck them, and the horses refused to face it. In attempting to turn around, the team broke the sleigh tongue, and had to be detached. Will and his two sisters started on foot to return to their father's. After they had gone about a mile and a half, the girls had become so exhausted in wading through the deep snow, that they said they could not walk any further. Will suggested that they ride the horses, but they didn't think they could, the wind was blowing so furiously, and the snow drifted so badly, the horses were unmanageable. Thereupon Will dug a hole in a deep drift, told the girls to get into it, and remain until he

could go to the house and get help. He was sure he knew where he was, and after removing his fur coat and wrapping it around the young ladies, the plucky fellow hastened on toward home. He lost his way, and after letting the horses go, wandered about until the next morning, bringing up at Barney Schnieder's in Carroll township, several miles from where his father lived.

He said he was tempted to surrender several times, during his awful experience, but the thought of the perilous situation of his two sisters, nerved and stimulated him, so that he was able to weather the storm. His escape seems to have been providential and miraculous, and such heroism is seldom exhibited. The Bislans were more than

doubly unfortunate. The old gentleman and his hired man who had been out to do the chores about the barn, lost their way in attempting to return to the house, and they too were out all night.

PRAIRIE FIRE.

It seems queer to us now, but in October, 1879, a fearful prairie fire swept a portion of Northwestern Iowa, and O'Brien county suffered considerably. C. W. Inman lost over fifteen hundred bushels of oats, and J. R. Pumphrey a fine grove of trees. Several houses were burned, and hay and grain stacks, principally in the eastern part of the county.

These prairie fires were extremely troublesome and dangerous every year, until the county became sufficiently settled, so that there was no fear of them. Portions of Dakota are now



C. R. WEST.

troubled, as we were in the early days. It was also a singular fact, that settlers knew how easy it was for a prairie fire to get started, and how difficult it was to prevent destruction of all before it, unless preparation had been made in advance by burning off around the premises, or by breaking, or plowing the ground to prevent it. Still, with all the knowledge of the danger, every year that the county was swept by the fire, there would always be a certain number, unprepared and unprotected. There was a law, and is now, punishing even carelessness in setting fire to prairie grass, but this did not seem to go very far in protection. Sometimes in burning around stacks, as a precautionary measure, the fire would get away, as in the case of Thomas Holmes; or perhaps some smoker would carelessly distribute his fire; someone camping and cooking—these along, sometimes with absolute maliciousness, were the cause of much damage to settlers by prairie fire. It is truthfully said, that fire is a good servant but a bad master.

In addition to other calamities which have befallen O'Brien county in early days, were also hail storms. In the latter part of the 70's, a frightful hail storm swept over the country from northeast to southwest. In that storm Harvey Luce lost crops, the estimated value at that time of \$1,200. Bert McClellan lost sixty acres of flax, and Pat Carroll, Geo. Menning, Robert Potter, C. Clindt, Enoch Philby, Levi Dingley, J. W. Egy, A. W. Sutter, Wm. Pursel, Wm. Schneider, W. E. Welch, F. A. Beers, Daniel Moffit were cleaned out completely. Window lights were smashed by the hundred. Hailstones of enormous size fell, and even in some places the grass was cut. There were other hail storms, but those of three different years are remembered, when the result left considerable damage to settlers.

Every settler of the early days, remembers not only a battle with the grasshoppers, but with mosquitoes as well. It is true, they did not eat the crops, this was not in their line of business, but the usual occupation of a mosquito was industriously followed. In the proper season, when this pest gets in its work,

you would see the smoke from a smudge, intended to keep them away, the family preferring to sit in the smoke rather than be exposed to the repeated and annoying attacks of mosquitoes. They would swarm all over a fellow, and the battle with the hands was entirely ineffectual, for when they came, they conquered. The mosquito was after blood, and had its size been in accordance with its strength and capacity, not a settler would have survived to tell the tale. He would have stood no more show for his life,



RESIDENCE OF R. A. WOODWARD, HARTLEY.

than a Spanish soldier in the wilds of Cuba, surrounded by a regiment of insurgents. But the race seems to have died out, not extinct, but its ranks thin and scattering, so that now in their determined persistency of attack. there is no danger of anyone being sacrificed.

CYCLONES.

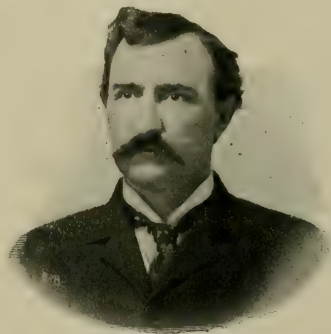
The terrible cyclone of June, 1882, got in its work at Paulina. About two miles northwest of Paullina, two of these circling eddies of destruction united, and two seconds thereafter about the hour of 6:15, struck the ground a few rods west of the M. E. church, hovering close to the earth until it shattered the church edifice, and the residence of William Hastings, which stood in a stones throw to the south and east of the church, into fragments, strewing the ground with the combined wreck of the two buildings for many rods in the storm's course. Mr. Hastings noticed the approach of the

storm, and succeeded in urging his wife and little ones into the cellar, but before he could follow them, was hurled with the flying debris through the air a distance of a 100 feet, alighting insensible near the houses occupied by W. J. Stewart, W. H. Durham, Walter Scott and families. Coming to his senses in the midst of the strong gale that followed the tornado, he dragged his wounded body to the east end of the Stewart house, from where he was taken into shelter through a window. At first, he was thought to be in a dying condition, but medical aid being summoned, his wounds were dressed and his spirits revived. Mr. Hastings' family escaped unhurt, but suffered almost a complete loss of household furniture and wearing apparel. One of the saddest features of the disaster in this village, was the shocking injuries sustained by Walter Scott, who had approached a window to observe the storm at the north side of the Stewart house. A heavy piece of timber, either from the church wreck, or from the demolished house of Hastings', came crashing through the wall, striking Walter on the head and hurling him senseless across the room, where he lay dead, as it was supposed, over his infant child which he held in his arms at the time of the catastrophe. But on being picked up by W. H. Durham, who too had been struck in the head and stunned by flying debris, it was discovered that Walter was still breathing, though feebly, and his child was unharmed. The surgeon found Walter's injuries to consist of a fractured cheek bone with a bad depression, and a fatally injured eye. At first his brain was thought to be injured at its base, and his case pronounced a hopeless one, but in the lapse of time, and with careful nursing, he gradually improved.

The main whirl that swept away the church and Mr. Hastings' dwelling, passed within twenty rods of the house directly east of where the church stood, which was occupied by the Times editor and family, scattering the church timbers in the front yard, and spurs from the current taking off half the roof of his house, causing the bricks of the upper

portion of the chimney to crash through the ceiling, falling in the sitting room within a few feet of its occupants. The barn of Geo. Hakeman was also struck by a spur of the "twister" and demolished. The carriage sheds attached to the north of Frank Tift's livery barn, were also struck and carried away. A portion of the roof of the residence of Mrs. W. A. Acer, in the south part of town chanced to be in the track of the spur, and was hurled to the ground.

The M. E. parsonage stable in the north part of town, was badly twisted. The strong gale from the whirl extended some miles south of town.



B. T. WOODS.

At Alex Davidson's place on Mill Creek, in Union township, the barn was demolished, and the dwelling taken from the foundation. All the buildings on the farm of W. P. Davis, with the exception of the dwelling, were destroyed, including the fine barn, and cattle sheds, etc.

The large barn on the farm occupied by J. M. Thayer, on section 12, in Dale township, was destroyed, and half of the dwelling unroofed. The barn on the Harker & Green farm, in Highland township, three miles southeast of town, was demolished. Just south of the Harker & Green place, Mr. Walling's new house was shattered to its foundation; its occupants had taken refuge in a cave. The gale also extended north of town, and an unoccupied house in Center township was swept away. A lighter branch of the tornado took a more southerly course from Primghar, going through the southeastern sections of Highland township, on its way down there,

carrying away the house and barn of Stewart King. It then struck the town of Sutherland doing damage there. In the southeast part of Paullina it blew down a barn, and killed a horse, then seemed to pass over the house of Thos. Rollins on section 12, in Highland, where Mr. Rollins' house was twisted from its foundation, and badly racked, giving Mrs. Rollins and her children quite a scare and a shaking up. Mr. Rollins was away from home at a neighbor's, but when the storm was approaching started home. While on the way he was overtaken, thrown across the road into a willow hedge, and was considerably scratched and bruised. The next trace of the storm was on section 7 in Grant township, where the house and barn of Fred Lemke were completely swept away. It is a most singular thing that the Lemke family were not all killed, for the house with the family in it, was rolled over and over, and finally taken into the air again, and then dashed to the ground in fragments. Robert Lemke, 4 years of age, received an ugly wound in the face, and when the stable went to pieces, one horse was badly crippled. Along the same route was the Covey church in Grant township, which was badly racked. On section 8 in the same township William Haver, his wife and hired man were working in the garden setting out plants. They did not notice the storm approaching, until it was nearly upon them, then they started for the house. Before they reached the house the roof was taken off, and the walls thrown down, a flying timber striking Mrs. Haver killed her instantly. On section 16 in Grant township James Hiatt had nearly completed a dwelling house for his family, which was completely demolished. They were living in a tent, and when the storm struck them, they were taken up in the air, and carried some distance, but strange to say not one of them were seriously injured.

James Janes living on section 21, lost his house and stable, which were completely swept away, and the occupants of the house thrown in different directions.

On section 10, Ed Shephard's stables were destroyed.

On the same section James Frush lost his stables, and the house was badly racked. Near Mr. Frush, John Dakin lost his stables, and his house was taken from the foundation. On section 21 Mr. Lackey's house was completely demolished, and his barn nearly so. On section 21 Mr. William Seeley's house was taken up by the cyclone and brought to the earth twice before going to pieces.

All the family were in the house and were carried several rods from its ruins, all in different directions, but very singular the only one seriously hurt was Mr. Seeley. He was soon after picked up by the neighbors and supposed to be dead, but was only unconscious from the shock and soon afterwards recovered. The family lost all their clothing and household goods. The house of Walter Cooper on section 29,

was scattered over the prairie in fragments, the family had taken refuge in a low strong granary which withstood the storm.



GEO. DIXON.

Don C. Barry living on section 28, lost his barn completely, but the house was saved by being sheltered in a grove. The De Mars family were not so fortunate in escaping. Their house standing on section 15, was crushed into fragments completely. Miss Elese De Mars a young lady of 20 years of age was so badly injured, she died a few days after. Mrs. De Mars' collar bone was broken, and her head and chest badly lacerated. Eugene was seriously wounded in the head, Sammy got an ugly wound in the side, Joseph Jr. was hurt badly in the head, leg and arm, and Dina got some face wounds. On section 25 the house and barn of Thos

Jenkins were crushed. The family was not injured except Mrs. Jenkins, and her collar bone was broken. An infant of the family was carried over twenty rods, and deposited in a shallow pool of water, but was not injured, only badly frightened. On section 14 the storm took the barn of R. M. Boyd, shattering it and driving many pieces of the wreck deeply in the ground, but the dwelling house which stood in a ravine, escaped by losing a portion of the roof and chimney. On section 13 in Waterman township, the house of James



C. E. ACHORN.

Jenkins was torn completely to pieces. Mrs. Jenkins was caught between a hot stove and a barrel of lime, her body was badly burned, and her eyes burned nearly from their sockets. The house and barn of Oliver Marcott on section 13 in Waterman was swept away, but the family escaped, having taken refuge in a cave. On the same section the upper part of the house of John De Tour was shattered in the upper story, and about two-thirds of the barn was torn into fragments, leaving a few feet of the building standing on the foundation, showing the singular

antics of a tornado. On section 12 in Waterman township Thos. Marcott lost his house and barn. George, a boy of five years was so severely injured, that he died two days after. Thomas received a dangerous gash in the head, and it is a wonder in that case, that all were not killed. Mr. Marcot also lost a roll of greenbacks to the value of six hundred dollars.

On section 11 was the house of Anthon Boyer, a bachelor which was completely destroyed. He was at the house of William Conrad on section 3, which was also destroyed, and the inmates severely injured. Anthon had two ribs broken, Mrs. Conrad's skull was fractured, and her shoulder hurt, Lennie Conrad had his hip bone broken, Mattie her arm broken, Lily was injured in the back, and Mr. Conrad was injured in the face. In Grant township on section 7 the house of Abram Opdyke was demolished, and Abram was so badly crushed by a portion of the upper floor falling upon him, that he died the next day. In Omega township the residence of Dr. Powers was destroyed, but as the family took refuge in the cellar they escaped without injury. About all of the houses destroyed were new buildings, and were better than the average style of country residences then. The storm was about three miles in width, and the older residents did not suffer as much as the others, their places being protected by groves.



MEMBERS OF THE G. A. R., SHELDON.

CHAPTER IX.

In order that we may not drift too far away from the early days, we will now give something of the county records as they appear on the books.

What would be considered the first record of the county, was written by H. C. Tiffany, one of the gang of organizers. It was not kept as is usually done in a book prepared for that purpose, but was written on foolscap paper, and then fastened together with the usual office fastener. It was no doubt intended for a record. Tiffany was elected clerk of the board in 1861, so that we will first give the record made by Tiffany on the foolscap paper.

October 20, 1860, J. W. Bosler took the contract to build a court house for recorder and treasurer, and (the old proviso) not to be over 18 feet square.

A temporary office for county judge was built by A. Murry, as is shown by his bill allowed for same. This was the old log court house.

November 5, 1860, the first county safe was purchased of Bosler & Hedges for treasurer's office.

H. C. Tiffany built an office November 7, 1860 for district clerk in connection with the office built by Murry for recorder and treasurer.

In December, 1860, H. H. Waterman resigned as treasurer and recorder.

John H. Cofer was the first chairman of the board.

James W. Bosler followed Waterman as treasurer and recorder.

On January 1, 1861, Amos. S. Collins assessed the whole of Waterman township, being then all the county, and was the first assessor.

On January 3, 1861, the first levy was made to build the first school house in the county.

In September, 1860, J. S. Jenkins made a county map for the county, he being the first surveyor.

The Records show that J. W. Bosler was the first attorney in the county.

The county was detached from Woodbury, and E. C. Hedges made copies of the Woodbury records, or so much thereof as pertained to O'Brien county.

Archibald Murry built both the log court house, and the "not over 18 foot square."

The first tax list was published by Zebeck and Freiney.

John H. Cofer was made chairman for 1862, and also was county judge for a term commencing January 1, 1862.

On June 1, 1862, James R. M. Cofer was appointed treasurer and recorder. On June 1, 1862, G. Hoffman was appointed sheriff in place of A. Murry. There is no record of how or when Murry got into the office.

On January 1, 1863, Moses Lewis and Daniel Clark were sworn in as supervisors, and H. C. Tiffey as district clerk.

On March 2, 1863, James R. Cofer resigned as treasurer and recorder, and David Carroll was appointed.

On March 2, 1863, J. H. Cofer resigned as judge, and John L. McFarland was appointed.

In March, 1864, H. C. Tiffey was clerk of the board of supervisors.

On June 2, 1864, David Carroll resigned as treasurer and recorder, and John L. McFarland appointed.

On September 5, 1864, Moses Lewis dug a well for the court house.

On September 2, 1861, the county bought the southwest quarter 36-94-39 of H. C. Tiffey for county purposes.

On March 29, 1861, Judge A. W. Hubbard appointed Sam-

uel Parkhurst of Cherokee county; Edward Smeltzer of Clay county, and James Gleason of Buena Vista county, commissioners to locate the county seat of O'Brien county, and on August 28, 1861, the first two commissioners did so locate same on southwest of northwest 36-94-39 bought of H. C. Tiffey.

This paper, after Tiffey's administration; was not noticed, until, during the time A. H. Willets was clerk of the court, when the records were moved from old O'Brien the first county seat, to Primghar, in 1873. It was with some other loose papers in a box, evidently not intended for preservation, but after the removal of the records, and the box was overhauled, it was found. The book records commence with the preliminary steps taken towards organization and are as follows:

A petition from the legal voters of O'Brien county, State of Iowa, to the county judge of Woodbury county praying for an organization; after due consideration said petition was granted and J. C. Furber was appointed organizing sheriff, and an election ordered to be held at the house of Hannibal Waterman, in O'Brien county on the 6th day of February, A. D. 1860.

At an election held at the house of Hannibal Waterman in the county of O'Brien on the 6th day of February, A. D. 1860, J. C. Furber, H. Waterman and A. Murry acting as judges, J. W. Bosler and James Gleason acting as clerks, the following officers were elected to serve until the next general election:



WILLIAM HARKER.

County Judge—J. C. Furber.

Treasurer and Recorder—Hannibal Waterman.

Clerk—A. Murry.

Sheriff—L. McClellan.

County Surveyor—A. Murry.

Superintendent Common Schools—H. Waterman.

April 7th. A petition having been presented for a road from Waterman to Sioux county line in a direction to mouth Rock river, A. Murry was today appointed a commissioner to locate said road.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

April 7th. Bill of Chas. E. Smeltzer to the amount of twenty-seven dollars to purchase books for O'Brien county, was presented and said bill being just and correct, an order is hereby drawn for the said amount.

May 21, 1860.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

Order No. 2.

April 7th. Bill of W. W. Mills & Co. to the amount of one hundred and twenty-five dollars, was presented and receipted by Chas. Smeltzer. Said bill is considered just and order drawn for the said amount.

May 21, 1860.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

Order No. 3.

April 7th. Bill of H. H. Waterman to the amount of three dollars presented for services rendered in viewing road. Said bill being just and correct, an order has been drawn for the amount.

May 21, 1860.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

Order No. 4.

May 22, 1860. Bill of H. H. Waterman for his salary as treasurer and recorder for the quarter ending May 6, amount-



STORE BUILDING OF W. A. WASSON, SANBORN.

ing to twelve dollars and fifty cents. Said bill is allowed and an order is hereby drawn for said amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 5.

May 22, 1860. Bill of A. Murry for his salary as county clerk for the quarter ending May 6, amounting to twelve dollars and fifty cents. Said bill is allowed and an order is hereby drawn for said amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 6.

May 22, 1860. Bill of I. C. Furber for his salary as county judge for the quarter ending May 6, assigned to Wm. G. Stewart, amounting to twelve dollars and fifty cents. Said bill is allowed and an order is hereby drawn for said amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 7.

May 22, 1860. Bill of H. H. Waterman for office rent, was presented and allowed, and an order drawn for the amount, twenty dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 8.

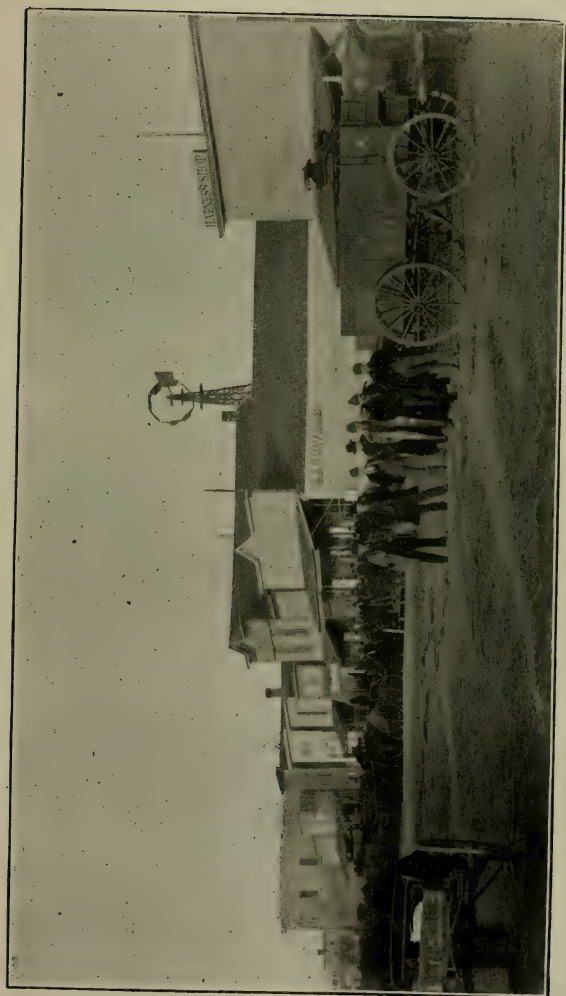
May 22, 1860. Bill of A. Murry for office rent was presented and allowed, and an order drawn for the amount, twenty dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 9.

May 22, 1860. Bill of I. C. Furber for office rent was presented and allowed, and an order drawn for the amount, twenty dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.



EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, HARTLEY.

Order No. 10.

May 22, 1860. Bill of I. C. Furber, an organizing sheriff of O'Brien county was presented and the same being just and correct, and assigned to Wm. G. Stewart, an order is hereby drawn for the amount, sixteen dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 11.

July 30, 1860. Bill of H. H. Waterman for viewing road June 30th was presented, and being just and correct an order was drawn for the amount of one dollar and ninety-two cents.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 13.

June 30th. Bills of I. C. Furber assigned to Wm. G. Stewart for services as organizing sheriff of O'Brien county were presented, and being just and correct, orders are hereby drawn for the amounts (\$11.52 and \$28.48,) amounting to thirty dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 14.

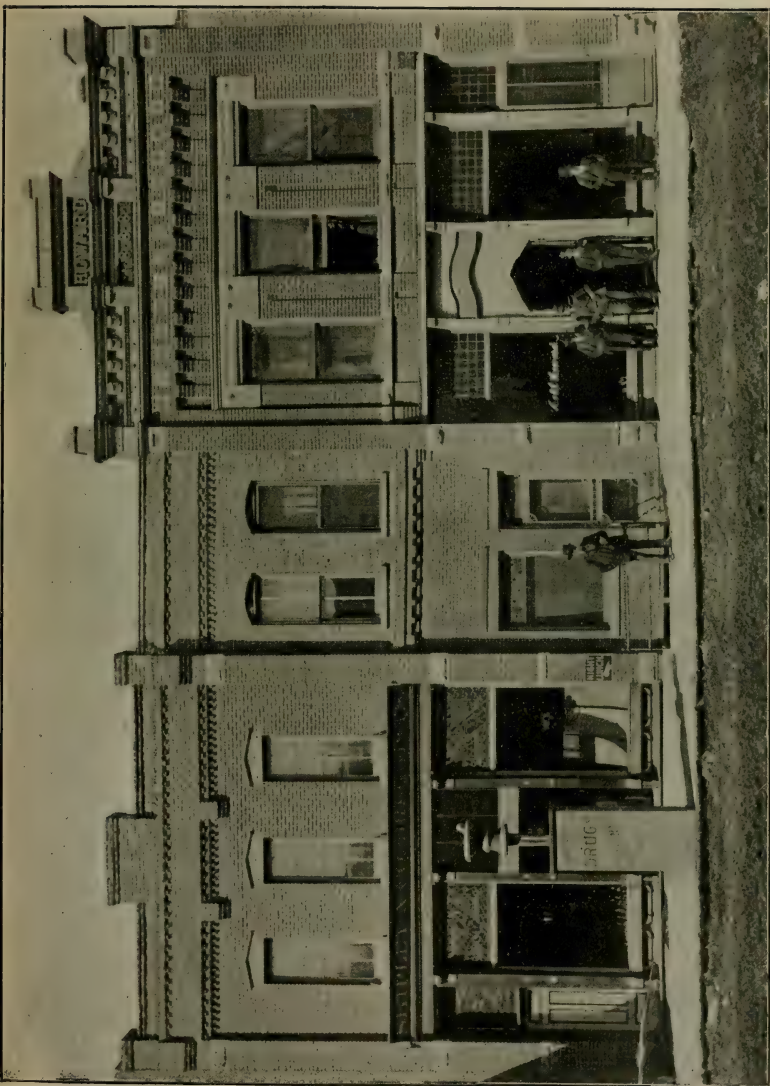
July 11, 1860. Bill of Wm. G. Stewart for use of team in viewing road was presented, and the same being just and correct, an order is hereby drawn for the amount, six dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 15.

July 17, 1860. Bill of I. C. Furber salary and office rent, assigned to A. Murry and Wm. G. Stewart, was presented, and being just and correct, an order is hereby drawn for the amount, twenty-five dollars and fifteen cents, also balance on same account, six dollars and eighty-five cents.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.



HOWARD HOUSE AND SHIPLEY'S DRUG STORE, SHELDON.

Order No. 16.

July 17, 1860. Amount \$6.85. Balance of I. C. Furber account, as salary and office rent assigned to Wm. G. Stewart, amounting to six dollars and eighty-five cents, said bill is hereby allowed and an order drawn for the above amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 17.

July 30, 1860. Amount \$1. Bill of W. G. Stewart for copying tax list was presented, and being considered just and correct, an order was drawn for the above amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 18.

10th of August, 1860. Amount \$12. Bill of A. Murry was presented for salary for three months, including August 6th, 1860, said bill being considered just and correct, an order was drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 19.

August 11, 1860. \$32.00. Bill of H. H. Waterman was presented for his salary and office rent, for the quarter ending August 6, 1860. Said bill being considered just and correct an order is hereby drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

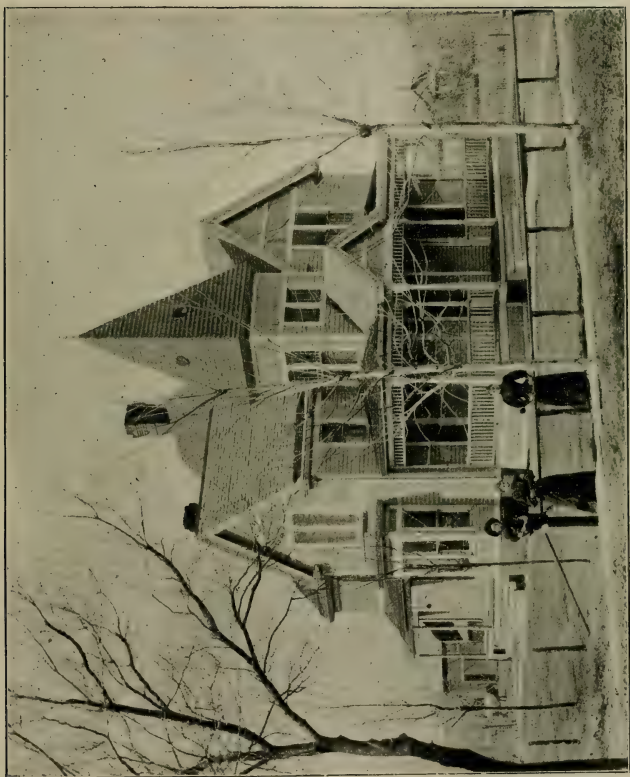
Order No. 20.

August 11, 1860. \$20.00. Bill of A. Murry was presented for balance of salary and office rent for the quarter ending August 6, 1860. Said bill allowed, and an order drawn for the amount of twenty dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 21.

August 11, 1860. \$50.00. Bill of Wm. G. Stewart was presented for his services for making out tax list for the year



RESIDENCE OF C. L. SOYSTER, SHELDON.

of 1860, and for transcribing delinquent tax list, and for comparing and arranging the same in proper form for the printer. Said bill is allowed and an order drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 22

August 11, 1860. \$5.00. Bill of W. G. Stewart was presented for services locating and staking out a road to the southwest corner of O'Brien county. Said bill is allowed and an order drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Ordered that Wm. G. Stewart and A. Murry be appointed as commissioners to locate a road from Waterman to the Plymouth county line in a direction to Melbourne, Plymouth county.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 23.

August 18th, 1860. Amount \$100. Bill of Ticbuch and Franey was presented for printing blank receipts and order book, and for other printing for O'Brien county, amounting to one hundred dollars, said bill is allowed and an order drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Orders Nos. 24 and 25.

August 30th. Amount \$187. Bill of H. C. Tiffany was presented amounting to one hundred and eighty-seven dollars, for his services for transcribing records and delinquent tax list from the Woodbury county books. This bill is allowed and an order drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 26.

September 1st, 1860. Amount \$25. Bill of A. Murry



McKEEVER BLOCK, SHELDON.

was presented for selecting swamp land order 26, amounting to twenty-five dollars was drawn on act of said bill.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 27.

September 1st, 1860. Amount \$20. Order No. 27 drawn on the same act as order No. 26.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 28.

September 1st. Amount \$8.50. Bill of S. P. Yoemans was presented amounting to eight dollars and fifty cents, plats for use of the officers of O'Brien county. Said bill is allowed and an order drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 29.

September 1, 1860. \$25.00. Bill of J. P. Allison was presented for comparing deed records of Woodbury, with the O'Brien county abstract. Said bill is allowed and an order drawn for the amount of twenty-five dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 30.

September 1st. \$20. Bill of A. Murry for surveying road and selecting swamp lands, Order No. 30, is drawn on said act, amounting to twenty dollars.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Order No. 31.

September 7, 1860. \$10.00. Bill of C. C. Smeltzer amounting to ten dollars for express fees on, and for hauling county books from Fort Dodge and from Sioux City. Said bill is allowed and an order drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.



HOTEL GRAND, PRIMGHAR.

Report of A. Murry as commissioner to local roads from Waterman to Sioux county line, and from Waterman to Plymouth county line has this day been received and accepted, and filed for record, the roads having been located as said report shows.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Orders Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35.

Bill of Tiebach and Freney for printing delinquent tax list for the years 1858 and 1859. Said bill was properly sworn to by one of said firm, and all of the forms of law have been complied with, and believing said bill to be just and correct, an order is hereby drawn for the amount.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

It having been made apparent to the satisfaction of the court, that there are no trustees in O'Brien township, the court appoints William Barrie and A. Murry, judges, to be held in said county on October 6, 1860, who have appeared and been duly sworn to fulfil said offices.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Ordered, that William Barrie be allowed Ninety Dollars out of the road fund levied by the county judge of Woodbury county for the year 1858, and that the same be received by the treasurer in the payment of said road tax, for repairing the road between Waterman and Cherokee, and that a road order be therefore issued for the same.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
October 20th, 1860. }

O'Brien county, by its judge, has this day entered into a contract with J.W. Bosler to build an office at the county seat, and to be of good material. Size not more than eighteen feet



RESIDENCE OF W. N .STRONG, SHELDON.

square, and to be finished by the 1st of May, 1862, for which he shall receive the sum of two thousand dollars, which amount the court now issues on order on the treasurer.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

No. 39. Bill of R. Smith for indexing deeds, amounting to ten dollars.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
October 23d, 1860. }

H. C. Tiffey has this day been awarded contracts as follows: One to build a bridge over the east branch of Mill creek on the road from Waterman to the Plymouth county line, for which he is to receive the sum of one hundred dollars; also, to build a bridge over the west branch of Mill creek, on new road, for which he shall receive the sum of five hundred dollars. Also five hundred dollars to put the balance of said road in a traveling condition, and the court being satisfied that said contracts will be complied with, an order for the several amounts is hereby ordered issued.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
October 30, 1860. }

The court has this day awarded a contract to Lewis McCoy, for selecting the swamp lands of O'Brien county and properly returning the same, which work is to be performed during the year of 1861, for which he shall receive the sum of two thousand dollars, and being satisfied that said McCoy will perform said work, said amount is hereby ordered issued.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 1, 1860. }

Ordered, that the sum of two thousand dollars be allowed from the county treasurer to J. W. Bosler, to pay for services



FARM RESIDENCE OF R. H. MAGEE, NORTH OF SANBORN.

and expenses to Des Moines and Washington, as agent for the county to prosecute the claim of the county for the swamp lands, and order is hereby issued for that amount.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 1, 1860. }

Ordered, that the sum of \$500.00 be allowed and paid to Wm. Barrie, on building bridge on the road from Waterman to Cherokee.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 1, 1860. }

Ordered, J. W. Bosler be allowed \$300.00 for attorney fees, attending to getting the back taxes from Woodbury county.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 30, 1860. }

Ordered, that H. C. Tiffey be allowed five hundred dollars in addition to what he has received, for transcribing the records from Woodbury county and that the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 3, 1860. }

Ordered, that A. Murry be allowed the sum of four hundred dollars, for making out tax list for 1860, and that the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,

County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 3. }

Ordered, that H. C. Tiffey be allowed the sum of two



RESIDENCE OF W. J. SEMMONS, PRIMCHAR.

hundred dollars for making out a set of plats of the county, and that an order be issued for the same.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 3, 1860. }

Ordered, that J. W. Bosler be allowed the sum of two hundred dollars for blank books furnished the county, and that the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 30, 1860. }

Ordered, that Hedges & Co. be allowed the sum of two hundred dollars, for stationery furnished county officers, and that the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 30, 1860. }

Ordered, that A. Murry be allowed the sum of three hundred dollars for wood furnished county officers, and that same be allowed.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 30, 1860. }

Ordered, that A. Murry and I. C. Furber, be allowed the sum of three hundred dollars for building temporary office for the county judge and district clerk, and that the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 5, 1860. }

Ordered, that A. Murry be allowed the sum of three



RESIDENCE OF W. W. JOHNSON, SANBORN.

hundred dollars to furnish desks for the county judge's office, and the district clerk.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 5, 1860. }

Ordered, that C. E. Hedges be allowed three hundred dollars for transcribing tax list, and comparing records, and that the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 5, 1860. }

Ordered, that Wm. G. Crantz be allowed the sum of nine hundred dollars, for laying out and putting in traveling condition a road from Waterman, to mouth of Rock river in Sioux county, said road being built on the part of the county to the O'Brien county line.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

Ordered, that A. Murry be appointed sheriff of this county.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

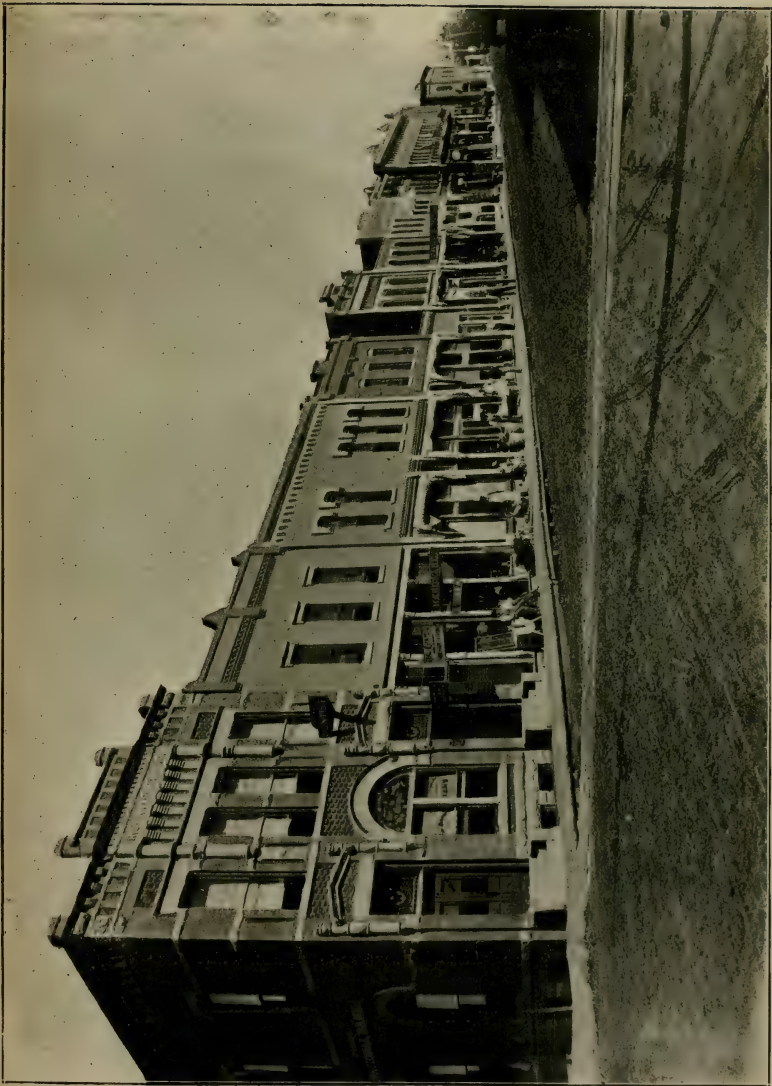
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 5, 1860. }

Ordered, that Bosler and Hedges be allowed the sum of six hundred dollars for a safe for the use of the county, said safe being delivered in said county, the amount is ordered paid.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 5, 1860. }

Ordered, that H. C. Tiffy be allowed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars to build an office for the district clerk, at



WEST SIDE THIRD AVENUE, SHELDON.

the county seat; said office to be built in connection with the office of the treasurer and recorder.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 6, 1860. }

Ordered, that A. Murry be allowed the sum of two hundred dollars for clerk hire in the office of district clerk, and the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 5, 1860. }

Ordered, that H. C. Tiffey be allowed the sum of three hundred dollars for making out delinquent tax list, and that the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 6, 1860. }

Ordered, that Hedges and Company be allowed three hundred dollars for stationery furnished district clerk, and that the same be paid.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 6, 1860. }

Ordered, I. C. Furber be allowed for lumber furnished the county to repair the road from Waterman to Cherokee.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
November 10, 1860. }

A petition having been presented by a sufficient number of the voters of O'Brien county, desiring a division of said county into two (2) townships, and the court being satisfied of



ELLIS BLOCK, SANBORN.

the necessity of such decision; it is therefore ordered that so much of the county as is undivided in Congressional townships Nos. 97-39, 97-41, 97-42, also 96-39, 96-40, 96-41, 96-42, also 95-41, 95-42, also 94-41, 94-42 be organized into a new township to be called O'Brien township, and that an election be held at the house of A. Murry on the first of March, 1861, and I hereby appoint Samuel Morrow, William Barrie and L. McLelland as judges of election to conduct the first election, in said township.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

To the County Judge of O'Brien County:

I herewith tender my resignation as treasurer and recorder of said county, and desire the same to be accepted.

December 11, 1860.

H. H. WATERMAN.

Witness: H. C. TIFFEY.

OFFICE OF COUNTY JUDGE, }
December 11, 1860. }

The above resignation of H. H. Waterman as treasurer and recorder, was accepted this 11th day of December, 1860.

I. C. FURBER,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
January 1, 1861. }

Ordered, that A. Murry be allowed twenty dollars for salary, and that an order be issued for the same.

A. MURRY.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, }
January 1, 1861. }

Ordered, that A. Murry be allowed three dollars as judge of election, and an order be issued for the same.

A. MURRY.

Bill of H. H. Waterman for salary and office, amounting to forty-seven dollars.

December 12, 1860.

A. MURRY,
County Judge.



WEST SIDE MAIN STREET, HARTLEY.

Bill of A. S. Collins for \$4.00 for bounty on swifts, order issued for same.

A. MURRY,
County Judge.

Ordered, that I. C. Furber be allowed twenty dollars for salary and office rent, and an order be issued for the same.

A. MURRY,
County Judge.

January 1, 1861.

Ordered, that H. C. Tiffey be allowed forty dollars for making out tax list, and an order be issued for the same.

A. MURRY,
County Judge.

OFFICE OF COUNTY JUDGE, }
January 1, 1861. }

There being no school organization in our county, I have this day in settling with the treasurer and recorder, secured from him county orders in payment of school fund.

A. MURRY,
County Judge.

January 1, 1861.

I have this day sold to I. C. Furber a warrant on Woodbury county amounting to \$454.00, being paid by said county for taxes collected after organization, and secured for same a like amount of O'Brien to orders.

A. MURRY,
County Judge.

Up to January 7, 1861, there is no book record, but on that date the book record commences. All previous to this January 7, 1861, is on sheets of paper. It would be impossible to copy all of these records, but we will give substantially what was done at each meeting, during the reign of the boodler gang, or up to the time the rapid settlement of the county commenced.

Meeting January 7, 1861. This must have been the first meeting of the board of supervisors, as the record states that fact, and starts out as follows: "At this regular meeting of the board of supervisors held on this 7th day of January 1861. H. C. Tiffey's bond as clerk of the board was accepted, and A. S. Collins was appointed assessor."

The following bills were allowed:—A. S. Collins bounty on wolf and swift scalps \$14.00, C. C. Smeltzer making out poll books \$10.00, adjourned to January 8, 1861. At this meeting nothing was done except to allow Collins \$2.00 for swifts scalps. Adjourned until the first Monday in March, 1861.

At this meeting Collins was allowed \$1.10 for wolf scalp, George Bassett \$1.00 for services rendered, A. Murry for wolf scalps \$5.00. H. C. Tiffey was empowered to draw orders in payment of bills presented for bounty, etc.

June 13, 1861.—At this meeting four mills was levied for county purposes, three mills for road purposes, five mills for building school house in Waterman, one mill for bridge purposes, two mills for school contingent fund, and one mill for paying teachers. Between meetings of the board there are orders made by the clerk for payment of money in accordance with a resolution passed at the March meeting,—in accordance with this June 14, 1861, Samuel Morrow was allowed \$2.25 for selecting swamp lands.

Board met September 2, 1861, and allowed the following bills:



W. P. BRIGGS.

Hedges & Co., stationery	\$ 200 00
I. C. Furber, office rent	300 00
J. H. Coffey, wood furnished offices	500 00
J. H. Bosler, wood furnished offices	200 00
J. H. Coffey, books furnished county	300 00
H. C. Tiffey, transcribing records	300 00
I. C. Furber, digging well for county	150 00
H. C. Tiffey, making out tax list	150 00
J. S. Jenkins, making map of county	200 00
C. E. Hedges, transcribing records	300 00
J. A. Gilbert, superintending swamp lands	500 00
H. C. Tiffey, office rent	300 00
A. Murry, office rent	300 00
H. C. Tiffey, salary	500 00
I. C. Furber, salary	500 00
J. S. Jenkins, surveying roads	700 00
J. H. Coffey, salary	50 00
J. W. Bosler, making out delinquent tax list	250 00
A. Murry, building county building	2,000 00
H. C. Tiffey, for forty acres of land	2,000 00
J. S. Jenkins, building bridges	8,000 00
Total	\$17,500 00

Then follows the appointment of Lemuel Parkhurst of Cherokee county, Edward Smeltzer of Clay county, and James Gleason of Buena Vista county, by Judge Hubbard as commissioners, to locate the county seat. The order entered, as made by the judge. Also the report of the commissioners, who located it on the southwest quarter of northwest quarter of section 36, township 94, range 39, and gave it the name of O'Brien. The report is dated August 28, 1861. Then follows an order by the president and clerk of the board, for an election to be held October 8, 1861, to vote for or against bonding the county for \$20,000. The election was held, and the bonds issued accordingly. There were 17 for, and none against. Then follows an order by the board for an election, to ratify a contract with J. W. Bosler, to the effect, that Bosler was to build a bridge across the Little Sioux, and in consideration therefor the county was to deed Bosler all the swamp lands in the county. This was also carried out October 8, 1871. There was then allowed about \$10,000 of various



RESIDENCE OF JOHN METCALF, PAULLINA.

bills, \$600 of which does not state what for. These orders seem to be without date, and several meetings of the board were held in regard to levies of taxes, and nothing of importance seems have been transacted by the board until March, 1864. February 2, 1863, the board accepted Bosler's bridge.

The following appears upon the record under date of March 14, 1863, board of supervisors ordered on contract No. 1 that there be \$2,000 issued to H. H. Waterman.

Ordered, on contract No. 2, that \$1,000 be issued to H. H. Waterman.

Ordered, on contract No. 3. that \$1,000 be issued to H. Waterman.

Ordered, on contract No. 4, that \$2,000 be issued to Daniel Clark.

Ordered, on contract No. 5, that \$2,000 be issued to Moses Lewis.

Ordered, on contract No. 6, that \$2,000 be issued to David Carroll.

H. H. WATERMAN,
Clerk Pro Tem.

Then follows an order to Mills & Co. for \$164.50 for books. The next meeting of the board was May 2, 1864, and the following the entire entry of that meeting.

DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE, }
May 2, 1864. }

The board of supervisors met this day, Moses Lewis, chairman, and in the absence of the regular clerk, L. Mackfarlane was appointed clerk pro tem.

Ordered, that a warrant for one thousand dollars be drawn in favor of G. A. Arnold.

Ordered, that warrant for one thousand dollars be drawn in favor of W. D. Abrams and J. H. Walters, lawyers, for services.

Ordered, that warrants for five hundred dollars each be drawn in favor of Moses Lewis and Daniel Clark, for services as supervisors and work done on bridges in county.

Ordered, that a warrant for one thousand dollars be drawn in favor of T. R. Smithers.

Adjourned to May 11, 1864.

JOHN L. MACKFARLANE,
Clerk, pro tem.

Then follows entries made May 11, 1864, as follows:

Warrants issued to J. L. Mackfarlane, salary county judge.....	\$500 00
Warrants issued to David Carroll, recorder	500 00
Warrants issued to H. C. Tiffey, asst. treasurer	500 00
Warrants issued to J. W. Bosler, attorney fees	500 00
Warrants issued to A. W. Murry, old account against the county.....	500 00
Warrants issued to Wm. Paine, old account against the county.....	500 00

The next meeting of any importance was held January 2, 1865. After allowing \$8 to H. H. Waterman bounty on scalps, and \$11 to A. Murry for wild cats and fox scalps, it was voted



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, SANBORN, IOWA.

by the board to issue \$17,500 in warrants in order to meet the requirements of the president's call for more men to serve in military service of the United States. Jacob Kerchner was an agent for the sale of the warrants, which were issued in one thousand dollar and five hundred dollar warrants.

The board then allowed J. A. Kerchner \$12.50, taking election returns to Spirit Lake; \$500 to R. M. Whipple & Co., without saying what for; Mrs. E. W. Holloway, \$150 out of the relief fund; \$64 to Mills & Co.; \$500 to A. Murry on contracts Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7; \$1,000 to Moses Lewis.

Next meeting of any importance was October 17, 1865. At this meeting Jacob Kerchner, agent to sell military bounty warrants, reported that he disposed of them at 20 cents on the dollar, and had the proceeds, which he was ordered to pay over to the treasurer, amounting to \$3,500, as the result of the sale of \$17,500 in warrants. The following warrants were then ordered to be issued:

Mills & Co., stationery	\$ 34.50
Hudson & Coy, legal services	50.00
William Freney, publishing tax list	358.00
C. C. Smeltzer, services to the county in 1860	3,000.00
Jacob Kerchner, services selling bounty warrants	1,000.00

This last item, will be noticed, was for selling the bounty warrants at 20 cents on the dollar, and it is further interesting what became of the bounty money. The disposition of this money is shown in the following entry in the minutes of that same date, October 17, 1865: Ordered, that the bounty funds in the hands of the treasurer be paid in equal amounts, (the same amounting to \$3,500), to William Paine, I. C. Furber and A. Murry, they having enlisted and credited to the county of O'Brien, and that warrants on the bounty fund calling for \$1,166.66 each, be issued to the above named persons. The board then further allowed the following: H. C. Tiffey, salary, \$700; A. Murry, salary, \$700; C. C. Smeltzer, as per bill, \$1,000.

The next meeting, January 1st, 1866, allowed John Moore, salary county judge, \$500; John Moore, assisting the treasurer, \$500; John Moore, building four bridges, \$1,000; H. C. Tiffey, salary, \$200; A. Murry, salary, \$300; Asa Tyler, building three bridges, \$1,500. It will be remembered that during this bridge building era, there was not a bridge in the county. The board met again September 4, 1867, and voted

to call an election for a vote upon the proposition to issue bonds for \$8,000, to be used in building bridges across the Little Sioux.

At this meeting the following bills were allowed:

A Murry, salary.....	\$ 1,130 00
John Moore, salary.....	1,130 00
A. Murry, salary as Recorder.....	1,130 00
Mrs. Holloway, out of relief fund.....	229 78
H. C. Tiffey, building bridge.....	825 00
M. Lewis, building bridge.....	690 00
John Moore, building bridge.....	480 00
A. Murry, building bridge.....	600 00

The next meeting Oct. 25, 1869, declared the vote for and against the bonds of \$8,000 as carried. At that meeting allowed a few bills as follows:

R. B. Crego, services.....	\$ 8 50
C. W. Inman, services.....	4 00
D. W. Inman, services as commissioner.....	5 50
Fred Fieldman, chain bearer.....	2 50
John Moore, for wood.....	150 00
John Moore, making out tax list.....	150 00

The next meeting November 23, 1867, shows that the board accepted the bid of C. W. Inman of \$6,000 for building a bridge across the Little Sioux.

Mr. Inman presented plans and specifications which were adopted. The clerk of the board was then ordered to issue warrants as the work progressed. It was then voted to accept the proposition of D. W. Inman, to build bridges over the Waterman creek for \$2,000, and the clerk was ordered to issue the warrants as the work progressed. Plans and specifications were filed by D. W. Inman and adopted.

It was then voted that the superintendent of public works, R. B. Crego be directed to cause a good



GEO. T. WELLMAN.

and sufficient bridge to be built over Murry creek, and to make his report to the clerk of the board as the work progressed, and that the clerk issue warrants in payment. Board met again January 6, 1868. There was not much business transacted at this meeting. Fred Fieldman (Dutch Fred) was allowed \$24 for boarding a pauper, three weeks at \$8 a week. Fred must have kept a first-class hotel. Moses Lewis was allowed \$30 for services as supervisor, and \$120 for hauling stationery and wood. D. W. Inman services as supervisor \$6 and \$10 for assisting superintendent of public works. The clerk of the board was allowed \$75 as salary.

Board met January 18, 1868. R. B. Crego made report as superintendent of public works, and upon his recommendation there was allowed \$569.84 for the furtherance of work on Murry creek bridge. Bill of Mills & Co., \$120.

Next meeting February 1, C. W. Inman allowed \$1,200 salary as Treasurer, R. B. Crego services on bridges, \$50. Wm. Freney, \$398.76, printing tax list. The next meeting was held on January 5, 1869. There were a few meetings between, but not much business transacted. At this January meeting, A. Murry salary, \$50; A. Murry office rent, \$150; R. B. Crego, supervisor, \$15; Mills & Co., \$809.33.

This meeting passed the startling resolution, that A. Murry be empowered to draw all warrants in payment of just claims against the county. Also at a following meeting, that A. Murry be empowered to employ counsel to defend all suits against the county. At a meeting held June 17, 1869, no business was transacted except to allow G. Parsons attorney fees \$100, and A. Murry traveling expenses \$100.

At the September, 1869, meeting it was voted to move the court house to the center of the county square, and to plaster and paint it. Nothing of importance was done until the meeting October 17, 1869. The following bills were allowed:

N. T. Flathers, commissioner.....	\$ 2 50
D. W. Inman, surveyor.....	6 00
D. W. Inman, on building Waterman bridge.....	1,000 00
A. Murry, express charges on books	600 00

At an adjourned meeting in November, 1869, it was ordered that the school land be sold at the appraised value of \$1.50 and \$1.75 per acre.

At the meeting December 31, 1869. R. B. Crego was allowed \$600 to build approaches to the Murry creek bridge; C. W. Inman, \$500 for furnishing office room and fire wood for 1868 and 1869: C. W. Inman, salary, \$1,000; A. Murry, clerk of board, \$150; A. Murry, office rent and fuel, \$150.

January, 1870, the new board, O. Higbe, H. H. Waterman and J. W. Kelley took charge, and their first meeting was January 3, 1870, with John Kelley as chairman. They did very little business, passed a few bills, and met again February 8, 1870. The first act of this meeting was to instruct the treasurer not to pay any bridge warrants for bridges over the Murry or Waterman creeks.

They also fixed the salary of treasurer at \$1200, and auditor the same. They also instructed the treasurer not to pay money on judgments.

Their next meeting was February 22, 1870. Some bills were allowed, and it

was voted further on Murry and Waterman creek bridges, that the bonds issued for their building be repudiated, and all papers connected with them. It was also voted that A. Murry,



O. H. MONTZHEIMER.

J. W. Kelley and Stephen Harris be appointed as a committee, to examine the records of O'Brien county. Also voted that the treasurer be forbidden to pay any warrants on the school houses. That R. B. Crego be let the job for building ferry boat to be used across the Little Sioux. Voted that \$500.00 be paid O. C. Treadway to get back the swamp lands, and that this amount be deducted out of Murry's salary.

June 6, 1870, Board met. It was voted that Mr. Kelley take away all the timber on the Waterman creek that was framed for bridges. The meetings of this board continued from time to time, and they seemed to be hampered in some way, and working against difficulties.

As stated elsewhere, these men were elected supposing they would carry out the schemes of the gang which they would not. Nearly every meeting since the last mentioned, they wrestled over the Murry and Waterman creek bridges, first ordering the frame lumber away, then considering the question of building something there. At their last meeting they fired a parting gun, by ordering the district attorney, to search the records of the ex-treasurer, and prosecute him for all delinquency. Also empowered the auditor to draw out the pontoon on the Little Sioux, and secure the same. Notified the treasurer not to receive any warrants on the repudiated list until ordered by the board, paid H. A. Sage his services as investigating committee, also bill of B. F. McCormick as investigating committee, and adjourned sine die. At the close of this term of Higbe and Waterman they were succeeded by B. F. McCormick, C. W. Inman, and T. J. Fields. It is not necessary to follow the records further, although there was much criticism of many acts of the board for a few years following.

The real debt of the county which constituted the fraudulent era, was up to the election of H. H. Waterman, J. W. Kelley and Higbe as supervisors who served in 1870. The check then made was understood by what settlers there were here, and particularly the settlers on the west side. At this

time warrants were worth from twenty-five to forty cents on the dollar, so that everything legitimately required had to be paid for double, or it couldn't be had.

The early records as mentioned and abbreviated, do not contain all the warrants issued, as it will be remembered in the records. A. Murry was authorized to issue warrants to pay any just indebtedness, and all that he issued is not fully known, only as it helped swell the aggregate which went through the process of bonding as a county debt.

It will be noticed in the minutes of the board, that the swamp lands of the county were conveyed to J. W. Bosler, in consideration of bridge building. The land was conveyed, but the bridges never materialized. The real truth is, that the county only had 240 acres of swamp land which were certified to be such, but this J. W. Bosler, who also achieved notoriety in the "Star Route" frauds, and was one of the original gang, conceived the thought, that the county had a large quantity of swamp land, the title to which he could acquire from the county in consideration of the bridge. The contract was made between the county



W. J. DAVIS.

and Bosler, whereby Bosler was to build a bridge across the Little Sioux, and the county was to convey by quit claim deed fifty thousand acres of swamp land. The deeds were executed and went to record, and are now carried along on the abstract of title to these lands, which are sometimes annoying to one who does not fully understand it. There were settlers upon this fraudulent and swamp land afterwards, who proved up and

acquired title from the government, which is the true title. After Bosler acquired his apparent title from the county, he sold the land to different parties, and these grantees of Bosler paid the taxes several years afterward, most of which was refunded by the county.

Since the fraud was ascertained by these innocent purchasers from Bosler, they gave up all idea of claiming any ownership of them, and would soon be forgotten by owners of the land, but for the fact that the written record appears in the abstract.

CHAPTER X.

We now return again to the general history of the county's settlement.

In the winter of 1879, Baker township organized a local congress, which attracted much attention. They discussed all kinds of measures and passed quite a number of bills. A bill was introduced for the erection of a light house at Sanborn, so that the erring ones from Baker township, in a dark night, could navigate in and out of the city. This bill was passed. Another bill was passed, requiring the secretary of the treasury to report how much money had been expended, for repairs on the court house. Another bill also, requiring the secretary of the interior to appoint ten civil engineers to survey a canal from Sanborn to the Missouri river, and report its probable cost. Enoch Philby, Charley Smith, and many others in the township were members of this congress.

George Sutter settled in what is now Baker; he came in the spring of 1870, and for a homesteader, and a first settler, built quite an extensive residence. S. G., a son, came first in 1869 and secured the claims. George had several grown up sons, who settled in the same township. George settled on the southwest quarter of section 4, H. Sutter on the northeast of section 14, D. Sutter on the northeast of section 10, and Sam on the northeast of section 2. George Sutter died some years ago. S. G. resides in Southwest City, Missouri, and Austin at Storm Lake.

The next real settlers in Baker were John Wagner and his brothers George and Wesley. They came in the early summer of 1870, and built a sod house on the center of section 22,

so that it would stand equally on each quarter, enabling each one to hold down his claim in that way. A cousin of theirs by the name of Wilson, had the fourth quarter. These Wagners were bright fellows, and one of them, John, was quite prominent in the county.

Byron Donovan afterwards bought one of these Wagner quarters, and long since, the sod shack was plowed under. Byron Donovan with his brother James, came to Baker township in the summer of 1871. They came from the same county (Iowa) that the Wagners came from, and were recommended to come here by the Wagner boys. Jim and Byron drove up, and having had permission from the Wagner boys, as they were away, made their headquarters at the sod shanty. Byron returned after a few weeks; during his stay they drove to Sioux City, and filed on their claims in the land office. Byron on the northeast quarter of section 20, and James on the southwest of section 12. James remained from then on, while Byron drove back to Iowa county, and returned in the spring of 1872. A. J. Donovan, a brother of James and Byron, came to Baker in 1872. He settled on the southeast of section 12, and besides having a residence on his claim, he also had a general store. This store was known all over the western part of the county, and did quite a trade until Sheldon started. The mother of these Donovan boys, with her daughter Lottie, came soon after; they took claims in Baker, but sold them without making final proof, upon their removal to Sheldon, soon after the starting of the town.

Mrs. Donovan's claim was several miles from Byron's, and one day Mr. Wheeler being at her place, and going to Byron's, she sent by him some milk in a tin pail. Byron was very fond of new milk, and had no cow. Wheeler started with the milk, but when he reached his destination, instead of sweet milk, there was butter; it had churned on the way. Mrs. Donovan, a matronly woman and devoted to her children, died about a year ago. Lottie married J. A. Brown, and she died several years ago, A. J. died also several years ago.

Byron resides in Sheldon, and James at George in Lyon county. During the building of the Illinois Central R. R. James was a large grade contractor with this company, was afterwards mayor of the town of George.

A. H. Balcom settled on the southeast of section 12, in 1871, he married a daughter of Mrs. Donovan, but he left the county several years ago. The Garrells, Dan H. and John M., came also 1871. Dan settled on the southeast of section 4, J. M. left the county several years ago, and Dan recently.

John Wood and his brother Robert came to Baker in 1871. John settled on the northwest quarter of section 20, and Robert on the south half of the same section. Robert came first in June, and did some breaking. John came in November, and batched with the Wagner boys at their sod shack for quite a while, and until he built on his own claim.

John Wood lived on the same until recently, when he moved to Clayton county. The writer remembers when John was a justice of the peace at an early day, and administered justice to all parties with an impartial hand. Robert left the county several years ago and resides in the eastern part of Iowa.

Among the other of these early settlers were Levi Allison, now living in Lyon county.

D. W. Wellman in Baker township, resides on the original claim, which is the northwest quarter of section 12. He set-



MRS. JOSEPH SHINSKI.

tled there in the spring of 1872, although he made his selection, and did his filing in 1871. He also came from Madison county. Mr. Wellman was justice of the peace there for many years, and the Sheldon lawyers have had many a lively tilt in Mr. Wellman's court.

J. A. Smith, a Yankee direct from the State of Maine, arrived in Fort Dodge in the spring of 1871. He had seen some stray pamphlet in regard to Iowa, and something on O'Brien county. When he arrived at Fort Dodge, he found some parties there from old O'Brien, who of course directed the steps of this pioneer, from the Pine Tree state, to the open prairies of this fertile county. He settled on the west half of the northeast quarter of section 18, in Carroll, bought him a team, and something to farm with, built a house, and was a full-fledged O'Brienite. His family were sent for, and they arrived in the spring of 1872. Along with them came his brother, Gilbert G. Smith, who settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 6, and Levi Dingley, who settled on the west half of the same quarter. C. B. Dingley came in 1871, and took the northeast of section 6. Mrs. L. A. Honberger came in 1871, and settled on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 32, in Carroll. J. R. Smith now resides in Hyde county, South Dakota, Gilbert in Sheldon, and the Dingley's along the Northern Pacific R. R. in Montana. Mrs. Honberger died in Spokane Falls, Washington, in 1889.

William Waters settled on the southeast of section 18. He came from New York state, without any definite idea, of what part of the west he was going. He landed at Fort Dodge, and meeting Murry there, was induced to come to O'Brien county, which he did, by way of Marcus, and by contest secured his claim. He returned east, after his family settled on his claim in July, 1871. He bought a yoke of oxen to start in with, hauled his lumber from Cherokee for a house, and was soon a full-fledged homesteader of the county. Mr. Waters is now a well-to-do resident of one of the suburbs of

Chicago, but still has an interest in O'Brien county, as one of its land owners.

Surrounded by a grove of trees, on the northwest quarter of section 10, in Baker township, is the residence of Enoch Philby, who came from Madison county, Iowa, in 1870, then a single man. He hauled lumber from Marcus, and first built the usual shack; lived in this until Sheldon started, when he bought lumber from H. C. Lane, and erected a substantial house. Continuously from 1871, Mr. Philby has resided on this same quarter section, and now with his family takes life easy. In 1890, Mr. Philby donated a spot on the northwest quarter of the section for a Methodist church, which was built that year, the spire of which is seen far over the prairie, so that Enoch lives under the droppings of the sanctuary, but whether he has Methodist tendencies or not we cannot say, but we do know, if all men were as upright, as honest, and as substantial as Enoch Philby, this world would be a paradise of peace.

G. W. Doyle was an early settler in 1869. He came here as other pioneers, hunting a home and settled on a part of section 12 in Highland township. He hauled lumber from Denison, built a shanty, and lived on the claim until 1888, when he moved to Primghar, where he now resides. There came with him his children Mary, Josephine, John, William, Grant and Ellen. John Richardson had settled in Highland township previous to the arrival of Mr. Doyle. G. W. Doyle has always been considered one of our best citizens, and a most upright and conscientious man. He was justice of the



MAUD E. SHINSKI.

peace for awhile, and has been prominently identified with the township.

John Kane with his family settled in Center township in 1871. John and his son Albert L, filed on an eighty each, on the northwest quarter of section 34. A daughter Olive married C. H. Murry now living on a farm near Primghar. John Kane now lives in Primghar, and in 1895 celebrated his golden wedding. Albert is in business at Primghar. The family are enterprising and well to do.

In 1871, in Highland township, as sort of a lone beacon upon the prairie, stood a building, called Paine's store, which is elsewhere spoken of as now standing in Sanborn, and which was occupied by L. P. Paine with a small stock of groceries. The oldest settlers remember it, as sort of an oasis upon the unbroken prairie, where they could halt, and regale themselves with a cracker or two, sandwiched with red herrings, or fill their pipes from the public box, and if a fellow stood in with the proprietor, he could get a snifter. At one time Jake Hill-yer was clerk, who handed out a codfish, or a wash board, with the dexterity of a veteran in the business, and with the politeness of a woman. It was for a time, also, the usual place for holding county conventions. The building as it now stands in Sanborn is insignificant, but historic.

L. C. Green, and his father McAllen Green, settled on 26, in Highland at an early day. McAllen Green died some years ago, L. C. is now engaged in the banking business at Lake Park. Samuel Hibbs on section 8, John Harrington on 20, J. W. Hoyt on 22, Peter Hartman on 21, W. J. Hoare on 34, William Jacobs on 18, William King on 8, Jacob Klema on 14, Morris King on 22, E. Kinding on 21, Joseph Lefeber on 6, Asher Lyon on 10, and Martha Lynch on 20, were early settlers in Highland. Other early settlers in the township were F. D. Mitchell, on section 2, Eli Plopper, on 21, Wiber Redd-out on 6, B. F. Rolston on 10, John Richardson on 22, Horatio Stanley on 2, W. J. Stanley on 2; also Ed Shea on 10, Ed. Sanford on 30 and William M. Squire on 24.

W. W. Johnson, mentioned elsewhere as a prominent citizen of the county, settled on the northwest of 20, in Highland, at an early day in 1871, and R. W. Johnson on the northwest of 32, in 1870. That year (1870), in the spring, came George Johnson, father of W. W. Johnson, with another son, R. W., from Cedar county. George settled on the southeast of 32, and two of the boys as above stated. He now resides at Paullina, was known in the early days as a blunt, plain man, jovial and reliable. W. W. Johnson is prominently identified with the business interests of Sanborn, is one of the county commissioners, and a man of judgment and integrity. The sons of W. W. Johnson, John, Frank and Charles, promising young men, are in business with their father at Sanborn. James, another son of George, resides at Paullina, a tinner, and Robert resides on section 8, in Highland township, engaged in farming. The Johnson boys are all sturdy, substantial men.



MARGARET M. SHINSKI.

W. A. Acer settled early on the southwest of section 6, in Highland township. He was a very quiet conscientious man and died several years ago at Primghar. His wife Henretta is well known in the county, is very literary in her tastes and proficient in music. She is now married to Hon. Daniel Campbell, a noted politician.

In Highland township there are several of the early home-

steads still residing in the township, and have passed through all the hardships of early pioneers, but are now comfortably fixed with nice farms. Among these is Geo. H. Hardin who settled on the northwest quarter of 14, A. M. Cleghorn on the northwest of 27, James Dewey on the northeast of 12, C. Harrington on the southwest of 20, Paul Lagoo on the southwest of 22, R. Salsbury on the southeast of 30, and William G. Virgil on the southeast of 28. These old settlers have seen Highland township from the town when the soil was first broken for cultivation, to its present beautiful and attractive farms. Geo. Hakeman settled early also on the northwest of 21. He left the farm some years ago, resided in Paullina for awhile, and now resides in Sanborn. George is a thorough going business man, and one whose integrity has never been questioned.

Other early settlers in the township were D. F. Burk, on section 4, Willard Bascom on 12, B. E. Borden on 30, John Vaughn on 32, A. C. Bean on 34, W. E. Baldwin on 34, John Culbertson on 4, J. K. Cassion on 14, and on the same section E. Coffee. E. C. Dean was an early settler on the northeast of 4, and who now resides in Primghar one of the best men in the county. John Casey settled early on 32, Thomas Duley on 2, Catrina Dobricka on 22, Z. P. Freeman on 2, Freeburg House on 6, and E. F. Fanning on 18. James Fraser Sr., settled early on the northwest of 30, in Highland, and his son James on a part of the same quarter.

James Jr., still resides in the county, now in Liberty township on the northwest quarter of section 8.

Claudius Tift, now a resident of Sanborn, was one of the early settlers of the county. He came from St. Paul in October, 1871, as far as Windom, and from this point went by stage to old O'Brien. There was then a stage line from Windom to Cherokee, with several country offices on the line. His brother Robert Tift was then a settler in Center township, and Claudius after reaching old O'Brien, inquired of Clark Green where Robert lived. As C. F. Albright

was about leaving for his claim, Mr. Tift rode as far as Paine's store, but as the proprietor of this dispensary of canned goods and codfish, was unable to keep our incoming settler over night, Mr. Tift started out in the darkness under the direction of Mr. Paine, to go a mile north and a half mile west. He went the mile north, and in going west, passed as he supposed some stacks, but after going nearly a mile west, concluded to return and sleep in one of the stacks. When he reached what he supposed were the stacks, it being dark, it

turned out that they were buildings on his brother Robert's claim. Robert was not at home, being in Cherokee, but he returned the next morning. Mr. Tift selected and filed on the northwest quarter of section 2, in Center township. After his filing he returned to St. Paul, came again

with his family in the spring of 1872, and lived there until Sanborn started, when he moved to that town and has been a resident there since. Claudius Tift is a veteran of two wars. Was in the regular army at the time of the Mexican war five years, and took an active part in that struggle. Was also in the war of the rebellion, and is surely entitled to all the honors of a patriotic citizen.

An early settler in Center township, was D. C. Chapman, who settled on a part of section 32, and now resides in Primghar.

Daniel Bysom with very fine improvements still lives on section 30, in Center township, on the southwest quarter. He was quite an early settler. Mr. Bysom is one of the prominent



FIRST HOTEL IN HARTLEY.

men, and is justice of the peace. Among the other early settlers in Center was Ira Boat on section 6, Minor Blossom on section 8 who still lives in the township, William H. Brown on the same section who also still lives in the township. A. L. Creamer settled on section 20 at an early day, also S. R. Charlton on section 4, J. P. Blood on section 12, Joel Bresee on section 26, S. C. Coleman on section 6, Charles Chandler on section 32, David Culbertson on section 34, John and Francis Duffy on section 22. R. M. De Witt who settled on section 30 in Center at an early day, now resides at Sanborn. Oliver Evans settled on section 24 in 1869, and still resides in the county, a substantial farmer and a prominent citizen.

Among other early settlers in Center, are John Evans on section 24, William Flood on section 22, Peter Farley on section 22, J. R. H. Gibbs on section 4, Daniel Griffith on section 8, H. A. Gardner on section 16, D. M. Gano on section 2, Samuel Alexander and Heman Gibbs on section 34, Mark Hannon on section 10, J. E. Halliday on section 26. J. M. Hicks settled early on section 36 and now resides at Sutherland. D. Ingraham was an early settler on section 12, Robert Jones on section 24, Abe Keepher on 6, Charles Moore on section 6, John Murray on section 22, J. J. Miller on section 26, A. McClaren on section 30, and J. H. Morton on section 32. Fabian Matott settled early on section 10, Francis Matott on the same section, J. M. Royer on section 20, William Robinson on section 22, and Thomas Scott and E. Scott on section 28. In Center township also David Palen settled early on section 12. Mr. Palen is well known in the county, was in business for several years at Sanborn, and now resides at Hartley. Geo. A. Sanford an early settler on section 6, J. A. Smith on section 28, J. P. Skipworth on section 30, and Julia Stevens on section 14.

Ezra, Charles and Erastus Smith, settled early on section 18, Robt. Sanford also settled early on the same section. Mr. Sanford has lived in the county since its early settlement, and in 1895 at Primghar was accidentally killed by a fall. Among

other earlier settlers in Center township, and who still reside in the county, are John Weist, who settled on section 26, Byron Wooster on 22, Calvin Waggoner on 34, and Henry D. Year on 26. These men are substantial farmers, and have been in the county since their settlement. O. M. Whitman settled early on 14, M. C. Wilkins on 18, and William Zeigler on 36.

In July, 1870, E. C. Foscett landed in O'Brien county from the state of Connecticut, that land of slandered reputation, as to wooden nutmegs, and basswood hams. Foscett was raised in Massachusetts, and in the days of his young and growing manhood, listened to a speech from Horace Greely, that nestor of American Journalism. Horace portrayed the advantages of the great and growing west, which induced young Foscett to buckle on the armor of an emigrant, and become a pioneer, which he did. He preempted the southeast quarter of section 20, in what is now Center township, and after final proof took a homestead on the northwest quarter of section 32, in the same township. On this homestead he has lived continuously since, has raised his family there, and through the shades of hardships and adversity has reached an era of prosperity, which he now enjoys. He is a thrifty, well-to-do farmer, was the first clerk in Center township, has been on the township board, or clerk since, and is a man you can depend upon every hour of the day.



E. F. HARRINGTON.

At about the same time Mr. Foskett settled, there also settled J. H. Ober, Hugh Scott, E. Scott and Thomas Scott, elsewhere mentioned. Mr. Ober still resides in the county, at Primghar, having kept hotel there for some time, he is now however, out of the business. Thomas and Ephram Scott moved from the county some years ago.

C. J. Clark, settled on the southwest quarter of section 20, in Center township, in 1870. He came from Linn county here, but originally from the state of Ohio. A son, George J., grown to manhood, in O'Brien county, has just retired as postmaster of Primghar, which office he held four years. Other children reside in Primghar, Florence, Violet, Ruby and Roszelle. C. J. Clark moved to Medford, Oregon, in 1889, where he still resides; his wife died there in April, 1897.

CHAPTER XI.

In 1873, a hue and cry was made that in the under soil of a part of O'Brien county, there was a strata of coal. Men are apt to believe that which they want to believe, and while many took no stock in the coal find, there were others who argued the point to a scientific certainty.

Why not coal here, as well as in other parts of the state, was asked with the positive assurance that there was no answer, only, that there was no reason why not. People in some parts of the country gathered together, talked, argued and resolved, and of course among such people there is always one at least, who has lived in a coal country and worked in a mine, and with the wisdom of Solomon and none of his secretiveness, gives the significant squint of his eye and that facial expression which simply says, that he knows all the indications of coal, and it is right here.

The feeling in favor of coal was brought to bear upon the board of supervisors, who did in January, 1874, offer a reward of \$1,000 to any one who would discover coal in any part of the county. As this resolution has never been rescinded, it is in order yet for anyone with the proper ambition and the tools to work with, to go to work, and in addition to the wealth that would pour in upon him, there would be no end to glory.

The coal fever did not abate; some actually went to work investigating the bowels of the earth in O'Brien county, and feeling that every foot further of research in the hidden depths of the soil, would bring about the discovery. The wind of enthusiasm, so as to speak, kept blowing in upon the board of supervisors, and as such feverish questions are contagious, the

board did it at its June meeting in 1874, resolve again, that for the purpose of encouraging the prospecting for coal in O'Brien county, they would in behalf of said county, pay \$25.00 per ton for one hundred tons mined in the county, and delivered at the court house within two years. This was certainly a very generous offer, and it was felt by some, that before another blizzard in the coming winter of 1874, that there would be a strife of speed as to who would get their hundred tons of coal at the court house first, but the coal never materialized. The coal question after repeated efforts, was soon lost sight of, and now has passed into utter forgetfulness. The fuel question however became one of importance during the few years following the year 1874, and especially during the first years of the grasshoppers.

Money was scarce, fuel must be had, and if there were not funds in the pocket book with which to buy coal, then something else must supply its place. If ever the mind of man is prolific with suggestions and theories, it is when necessity demands it. In casting about for something that would take the place of coal, there seemed to be nothing in sight but the prairie grass which was produced right here from the soil, and especially in sloughs, up to six feet in height. This discovery of available fuel at our very doors went over the country like wild fire, and soon the horny hand of many a struggling homesteader was straining its muscles twisting the prairie grass into a compact form, so that it could be placed in the stove and answer all the purposes of fuel.

The hay it was true, did considerable heating, but the twisting and firing up took about all the time one man could spare, and as women could not do the twisting, the head of the household had to practice, and perhaps improve upon the art with devoted industry. Ingenious ones entered the field of invention and the brain of many an ambitious settler was racked with devices for twisting the "dod burned stuff" as Capt. Edwards called it, until the patent office at Washington was crowded with models, which each one furnishing them believed would revo-

lutionize the heating forces of the world. One fellow's invention consisted of two upright pieces of wood, of sufficient height, manipulated the hay by hooks, and then a crank, which carried a roller catching the hay and winding it, until it was a solid stick of proper size for using.

This burning of hay for awhile was universal throughout the county among the farmers, all using it with but few exceptions, and these who were able to buy coal. One fellow who run for

office in 1875 was nearly slaughtered in his election, because he was charged with being so "stuck up" that he would not burn hay. During those winters the shack with only room enough to live in it, would be so filled with twisted hay, the inmates could hardly get around them-



RESIDENCE OF W. A. ELLIOTT, HARTLEY.

selves, and the stranger who entered it would see no room for him. The first hay twister in the county was manufactured by J. E. Daniels formerly of Paullina, but after him, in devices and construction there was a multitude. But still, hay placed in proper compact form and size, is not after all such poor fuel, and when necessity demanded it, was an admirable substitute for something better when it could not be had.

From the Primghar Bell office, there was issued an elaborate Christmas edition at Christmas time in 1896, which contained several letters from different parties, of much interest to old settlers. We reprint one of these the first from F. T. Piper of the Sheldon Mail, and the other from J. H. Wolf of the Pioneer:

"Cheerfully responding to the Bell's request for a short contribution to its contents at this joyous Christmas time concerning my recollections of the first Christmas dinner I ate in O'Brien county, I am pleased to say at the outset that such recollections as I have of that old time holiday are agreeable ones, as most remembrances of the gladsome holiday season usually are.

"If my memory serves me aright, I ate my first Christmas dinner in O'Brien county in 1873. I had arrived in the county some months previous. I was then in the employ of D. A. W. Perkins who was at that time publishing The Mail.

"That was before Mr. Perkins had abandoned the life of bachelor to become a benedict. He held forth in all his glory on his homestead, now the place occupied by F. E. Wyman and situated just within the extreme outer limits of the city, east. He kept a 'batchelor's hall' and I became 'star boarder.'

"My friend Perkins did the cooking, but I assisted in other housekeeping duties, and we got along sumptuously, though the variety of the food was so limited and consisted of such a monotonous sameness, that we occasionally dined out. For Christmas day we arranged for an unusual spread. Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Butterfield, the former of whom long since sank to rest by his friends' wishes blest, were then living on their homestead, now the Ed. McFarland place, in Carroll township. They were invited to join hands and provisions with ours and did so. Mrs. Butterfield brightened the bachelor's quarters with a display of snowy white table linen, and roasted the first turkey that had ever been basted in our home. Mr. Perkins cooked oysters, and saw to the baking of a mess of beans. When the combined product of the several cooks was served, it was a feast fit for the gods. There may have been Christmas dinners in the county that year of more studied and elaborate elegance, but there could have been none more richly enjoyed.

"Aside from the edibles, all who were members of that company enjoyed a day of rare sociability, such as is altogether

too rare in these later days when we should have evolved to vastly greater social pleasures.

"Our guests were Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Butterfield, C. F., ('Cush,') and George Butterfield, and Miss Anna Butterfield. Of this number death has since claimed two—Father Butterfield and his eldest son, Cushing. George Butterfield, then the youngest son, is now the head of a family of his own, and is teaching the Indians at Rosebud Agency in South Dakota. The then Miss Butterfield, is now the widow of S. C. Nash, and resides with her two children in Sheldon. Charley Butterfield and his now aged mother reside in Sheldon.

"What a flood of happy and unhappy recollections the recounting of these few reminiscences call out.

"There has been a marvelous shifting of scenes during the twenty-three years that have intervened between those days of Auld Lang Syne and these. The country has developed prosperously. Many who were pioneers have remained, and now bask in the sunshine of the success that has followed the trials and misfortunes of those former times. Others have sought other localities." The following from J. H. Wolf:

"It is gratifying to have tarried here, and to have mingled with those good people who were the beginners on these broad and fertile acres.

"Old times were good times, and
Old friends are the best friends."

"A few words on Christmas, 1873, may not be amiss to your readers:



METHODIST CHURCH, PRIMGHAR.

"Franklin township, now one of the most populous, and rich, second to Floyd only, in fact, was one of the last to be organized as a separate township, being attached to Floyd.

"Wm. H. Dummit, of section eight with his family, being the first residents, locating as a homesteader on the northwest of 8 in 1871 or 1872. The family had some sad experiences, like most other frontier people. During the blizzard in January, 1873, a child died and was three days in the house after death, the storm being too bad to venture out to inform the neighbors. Mr. Dummit, by strict attention to business, industry and economy, has raised his family well, and now owns a fine half section, 320 acres, paid for, and well improved and well stocked. Such men always make farming pay.

"J. H. Wolf and family were the second to locate in the township, settling on section 14, in April, 1873. Their nearest neighbors were more than four miles away. The first winter they lived on the farm, they were snowed in for eleven weeks, from January 8th to March 28th, not seeing anyone, the snow being too deep for travel. Mr. Wolf threshed their first crop, several hundred bushels, with the flail, his wife turning the fanning mill to clean it up.

"Rev. Ira Brashears, the same spring, that of 1873, had some breaking done, built a shanty, and lived a short time on the land now occupied by E. T. Parker, adjoining Sanborn. And several hundred acres were broken up by, or for, a man named Buck, on section 31. About the same time some land was broken up on section 12, but not farmed, the land being broken up on the wrong section. B. F. McCormack can tell the particulars.

"Isaac Daniels broke land on section 14 in 1874, and built a house and moved his family thereto soon after.

"Thomas Burns and family located on section 31, we think in 1874 or 1875, and John Neese and Charles Sechman located on sections 28 and 29 in 1876. In 1878 there were voters enough, ten, to organize the township, which was done. J. H. Wolf and Isaac Daniels were appointed to locate the

roads. The first election was held in the fall of 1878, at the house on section 30, then occupied by Mr. Gavin, twenty-one votes being cast, six or eight of them by men working on the railroad, legal voters.

"The town of Sanborn was started in 1878, or early in 1879, and made a very rapid growth."

H. C. Robeson settled early, in 1871, in Caledonia township, and he was the first settler there. This township was not government land that could be settled upon, but the settlers there acquired title by purchase from the owners. Mr. Robeson is a graduate of Yale college, very much of a gentleman, and did farming on quite a scale. He tired of this several years ago and now resides at Marcus.

A few years after that Henry Herman, John Schweback, Thomas Barry and others followed. Mr. Schwebach came in 1872, the next settler to Robeson. This township was mostly

settled by Germans who are thrifty and progressive farmers, and the township is one of the most prosperous in the county. In 1883 the people there united together and on section 14, built a German Lutheran church. They acquired ten acres by purchase for church and cemetery ground, and erected a building at a cost of \$7,000. The building is used for a double purpose of church and school, the school being intended as a sort of a preliminary to the public school,

and there are taught both English and German. There has also been built a very fine parsonage, and a residence for the German teacher. The German people believe in education, and their native country is noted for the pride it takes in the education of its children. This church is at what is called



J. D. LONG.

Germantown, where also there is a creamery run by a stock company, who also have a store there.

In Union township there is quite a settlement of Norwegians, and also in Dale. The first to settle here was O. S. and C. R. West, accompanied by their mother and S. J. Norland, all from Marshall county. They came in the spring of 1883, located on section 13 about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Paullina.

In the fall of 1883, O. P. Tjossem and L. Goodmanson of Marshall county, Seyert L. Tow, A. L. Tow, O. K. Tow and H. Graden of Benton county, and J. P. Tjossem of Ida county, purchased all of section 26 in Dale township. In the spring of 1884, they located on the land, and at once commenced to make improvements of a temporary character, followed in the summer by neat and substantial dwellings. O. P. Tjossem feeling confident that land in O'Brien county was a good investment, added 160 acres to his domain, by the purchase of the southwest quarter of section 24 in Dale.

Severt L. Tow also branched out by the addition of 80 acres of section 35, to his farm. J. T. Johnson of Benton county hearing his friends speak in glowing terms of O'Brien county, concluded to come and see for himself, and the result was, that he located on an eighty on section 30 in Highland township. He was soon followed by J. P. Norland also of Benton county, who purchased for his sons a 160 acres adjoining Mr. Johnson's. Hardin county was represented in the person of C. Thompson, who bought the southeast quarter of section 35 in Dale township in the fall of 1884, and commenced improvements in the spring of 1885. Mr. Thompson was accompanied by his cousin, Iver Goodmanson, who purchased 80 acres in the same section in August. There are others, although not of the same nationality, who should be mentioned by reason of their locality. Among them is Mr. Crosbie, of Cedar county, formerly of Glasgow, Scotland. Having an acquaintance with some of the Norwegians, he concluded to make his residence here, and therefore bought a 160 acres of improved land in section 24, Union township. Mr. Crosbie is

a minister of the Society of Friends. Following him came the Rockweel family from New York and eastern Iowa, consisting of the parents, their five sons and son-in-law D. J. Peckman. Several members of the family came in the spring of 1885. The lands comprised in this settlement, lie mostly in the immediate vicinity of Paullina, and are among the best in the state.

Mr. Isaac Sprague came in the spring of 1871, and settled on the northwest of section 34, in Carroll. He sold out in grasshopper times, becoming discouraged and disgusted, in battling the pest, but has remained in the county since, now residing in Paullina.

Hugh Scott settled on the northeast quarter of section 28, in Center township in 1870, and with his family now resides in Sioux City. He was a resident of Center township for many years, eleven of his children having been born in that township. Three of Mr. Scott's daughters, Mollie, Jeanne and Bessie, have obtained a large



JOHN BOWLEY.

and enviable reputation as musicians. Mollie has given piano recitals in most of the large cities of the United States. Bessie as a violinist has toured the country successfully. Jeanne has lately received flattering notices in the press, among others the St. Louis Globe as follows:

"The pianist, Miss Jeannie Scott, played the Liszt arrangement of the 'Erl King' with exquisite expression and with a technique well nigh flawless. After four recalls she responded with Chopin's charming and dainty 'Berceuse.' Miss Scott received a beautiful bouquet at the close of her second number."

W. H. Eaton, now a prominent resident of Hartley, came from Wisconsin in 1872, and located on a part of section 25, in Lincoln township. He moved to Hartley in 1879.

I. M. Silverthorn came from Hardin county, Iowa, and settled on section 30 in Lincoln township, in 1870. Himself and family, were in that township for about two years in advance

of any others. Mr. Silverthorn went through the grasshopper period, and in one year had 100 acres of wheat, and did not harvest a bushel. He now resides in Hartley.

Julius G. Guenther came to Center township in an early day, farmed for a number of years, moved from there to Hartley and died there not a great while ago. A son H. J. keeps a shoe store in Hartley. E. W., another son, runs a blacksmith shop at Calumet. Emil is in the saloon business at Hartley.



WILLIAMS BROS.' STORE, HARTLEY.

In 1875, the population of the county was 2,349, and there were 595 voters. There were 563 families, and 594 dwellings. During that same year, there were 116 births, 26 deaths. The number of acres of cultivated land were 33,626, and that

year there was harvested 157,526 bushels of wheat, 106,052 of corn, 1,281 of rye, 53,931 of oats and 200 bushels of buckwheat.



RESIDENCE OF I. N. DRAKE, HARTLEY.

The population in 1881, by townships, was as follows:

Baker township	202
Caledonia	177
Carroll	329
Center	359
Floyd, outside of Sheldon	368
Franklin	88
Grant	368
Hartley, including town	104
Highland	387
Liberty	350
Lincoln	23
Summit	18
Waterman	145
Town of Sheldon	730
Town of Sanborn	364
Town of Primghar	143

By the census of 1885 there were 8,335 inhabitants in the county, distributed in towns and townships as follows:

Baker township.....	394
Carroll.....	396
Center.....	386
Caledonia.....	526
Dale.....	223
Franklin.....	223
Floyd.....	471
Grant.....	651
Highland.....	388
Hartley.....	281
Lincoln.....	53
Liberty.....	497
Omega.....	187
Sumit.....	286
Union.....	206
Waterman.....	221
Sheldon Town.....	1,036
Sanborn Town.....	1,143
Paullina Town.....	355
Sutherland Town.....	416
Total.....	8,335

This population consisted of 4,451 males and 3,884 females. There were 1,981 who where voters, 2,833 between the ages of 5 and 21, and 1,581 liable to military duty. The population of the county still increasing was in 1890, 13,039, its present population is 15,609.

In 1887 the taxable property of the county was as follows:

Land.....	\$1,698,101
Town property.....	143,782
Personal property.....	346,753
Railroad property.....	225,252
Total.....	\$2,405,888

In the same year there was in the county.

Cattle	16,000
Horses	6,100
Mules	350
Sheep	5,000
Hogs	15,000

The Covey church on section 6 in Grant township, was built in 1875. Rev. John Covey who was a homesteader in the county, and a preacher of that denomination, obtained from the extension fund of that church, the sum of \$500. The ground was donated by John Loder, and the balance of the money necessary to build the church, was raised by the settlers.

Mr. Henry D. Year, Fred and Michael Stueck, Julius Freimark and others, in 1884, built the Saint Emanuel's Lutheran German church in Center township, on section 26, at a cost of about \$1,000. Two acres of ground were donated by Mr. Year, and one acre by Mr. Stueck for church and cemetery.

There are quite a number of settlers in Floyd township, who came in the seventies. Tim Donahue, came in 1878 from the state of Michigan. He had been marshal of the city there, and had been deputy sheriff of the county. Pat Kennedy came from Michigan in



PARK PRATT.

1872. He has worked hard during the years he has been here, and raised but little during the grasshoppers. I remember one summer that Pat did some breaking, he worked his horses without grain; he would turn them out to feed on grass only.

Charles M. Kenney is one of the early settlers of Floyd, came here a small boy with his father J. L. Kenney, and if Charley has the same attributes of manliness as the father has, he cannot go far astray, and we think he has.

Patrick Sullivan with family came in 1878, as did also James Beacom. Both of these have sons farming in the township.

Patrick Kelley has been here quite a number of years, and is still farming. William Johnson was an early settler, and by nature was a good man. His wife still resides in Floyd township also a son Robert, farming.

Thomas Burns is quite an early settler in Carroll, coming here in 1874, and is still farming the same piece of land he broke up originally. He has several sons also who are farmers, and it is quite a thrifty family.

CHAPTER XII.

There was in O'Brien county in the seventies, a gopher scalp period so to speak, when the county paid five cents each for every gopher scalp, presented to the auditor. This somewhat helped to reduce the number of gophers, but more particularly was the means of grinding out county warrants for the poor and destitute of the county, who would catch gophers, if they could do nothing else. The gophers were a troublesome pest, they seemed to know exactly where every kernal of corn was deposited in planting time, and were very industrious in getting after it, still, there were ways of destroying them, and each settler had an individual interest in reducing their numbers, and exterminating them if they could. But county warrants were worth only forty cents on a dollar, and every gopher scalp meant one gopher less. The writer was driving to Primghar across the county in 1874, with James Wykoff, and along with us was "Sam" a spotted dog known to the settlers in and about Sheldon, as a dog of much intelligence. On the way Sam caught a gopher, which we carried to the county seat and presented it to Auditor Edwards, demanding that warrant issue in the name of "Sam Perkins" which was done in the usual form, and on the usually decorated paper blank, called a warrant, and for five cents. We then presented the warrant to the treasurer who cashed it, and the five cents was soon in the hands of a butcher, and "Sam" was enjoying his dinner of beef bones. Other counties in the state had previously, and some then, were paying this bounty for gopher scalps.

It was told at the time that Scott county paid five cents,

and the adjoining county Muscatine paid the same. The evidence in Scott county of the slaughter, was the scalp, in Muscatine county the tail. One can imagine how easily the "kids" of that day and generation, or of any other, would "catch on" to the double compensation of utilizing the carcass of a gopher, so that, the scalp would bring five cents in Scott county, and the tail five cents in Muscatine county. This game was played for awhile, until the county officers were on to the "racket," and soon the counties were alike in the required proof. Gopher scalps in O'Brien county then were legal tender. Ten gopher scalps would buy a certain amount of sugar, or other groceries, and the trade especially recognized these scalps as they did money in the purchase of goods. Capt. Edwards was kept busy counting them, as they were brought



V. A. BARMORE.

in all the time in large numbers. The cat tribe was increased for the sole purpose of hunting gophers, and the prairie was covered with children catching them, by means of laying the loop of a string around the gopher hole, and then laying down a little distance away, ready to pull on the string, when the head of the gopher appeared at the surface. In order to get the bounty, it required the signature, and the oath of the one presenting the scalps, which was

written on a blank printed for that purpose. We do not know how it was, but it was understood at the time, that when the auditor had made his inspection, he would throw out the scalps at the rear of the office, and when this was done, other boys took these, and again presented them, and got more warrants

on them. We are inclined to think this industry was practiced, until Capt. Edwards found out what was going on, and after that, they were burned in the stove. But the poverty of the people then, owing to the grasshoppers was very much relieved by the county warrants issued for gopher scalps, but the time came when this bounty was taken off by the board of supervisors, and the cutting off of this steady income and revenue was felt by the rising generation of that period. That the people were poor then, there is no question. There is on the records of O'Brien county now, a chattel mortgage given to secure \$25. on the following household articles, one stove, one flat iron, one wash board, one skimmer, one dish pan, and three lamp chimneys. Who, in their comfort and ease now living in O'Brien county, would raise a single objection to that part of the county's debt, created by paying for gopher scalps.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

We will at this time give the names of all the county officers from its first organization.

1860.

Recorder and Treasurer	H. H. Waterman
Sheriff	L. McClellan
Surveyor	A. Murry
Superintendent of Schools	H. H. Waterman
County Judge	J. C. Furber

1861.

Same officers as in 1860 with the following exceptions:

Sheriff	A. Murry
Superintendent of Schools	J. J. Jenkins

1862.

Recorder and Treasurer	J. R. M. Cofer
Sheriff	G. Hoffman
Surveyor	L. McClellan
Superintendent of Schools	Geo. Hoffman
Clerk of Court	H. C. Tiffey
County Judge	J. H. Cofer

1863.

Recorder and Treasurer	J. R. M. Cofer
Sheriff	G. Hoffman
Surveyor	L. McClellan
Superintendent of Schools	Moses Lewis
Clerk of Court	H. C. Tiffey
County Judge	John F. McFarland
Supervisors	Moses Lewis and Daniel Clark

1864.

Recorder and Treasurer	J. R. M. Cofer
Sheriff	G. Hoffman
Surveyor	L. McClellan
Superintendent of Schools	Moses Lewis
Clerk of Court	H. C. Tiffey
County Judge	John F. McFarland
Supervisors	Moses Lewis and Daniel Clark

1865.

Recorder and Treasurer	A. Murry
Sheriff	G. Hoffman
Surveyor	L. McClellan
Superintendent of Schools	Moses Lewis
Clerk of Court	H. C. Tiffey
County Judge	Moses Lewis
Supervisors	Moses Lewis and Daniel Clark

1866.

Recorder and Treasurer	A. Murry
Sheriff	Chas. M. Stevenson
Surveyor	L. McClellan
Superintendent of Schools	Moses Lewis
Clerk of Court	John Moore
County Judge	Moses Lewis
Supervisors (to fill vacancy of Moses Lewis)	R. B. Crego
.....	Daniel Clark

1867.

Recorder and Treasurer	A. Murry
Sheriff	Chas. M. Stevenson

Surveyor L. McClellan
 Superintendent of Schools Moses Lewis
 Clerk of Court H. C. Tiffey
 County Judge Moses Lewis
 Supervisors Moses Lewis, D. W. Inman and R. B. Crego
 1868.

Recorder and Treasurer C. W. Inman
 Sheriff Chauncy Chessley
 Surveyor D. W. Inman
 Superintendent of Schools Moses Lewis
 Clerk of Court John Moore
 County Judge A. Murry
 Supervisors Moses Lewis and Daniel Clark
 1869.

Recorder and Treasurer C. W. Inman
 Sheriff S. B. Hurlburt
 Superintendent of Schools C. W. Inman
 Clerk of Court John S. Stratton
 County Judge A. Murry
 Supervisors Wm. H. Baker and Moses Lewis
 1870.

Recorder and Treasurer R. B. Crego, J. R. Pumphrey
 Sheriff S. B. Hurlburt
 Superintendent of Schools Stephen Harris
 Clerk of Court John S. Stratton
 County Judge A. Murry
 Surveyor J. F. Schofield
 Supervisors ... J. W. Kelly, H. H. Waterman and O. Higbee
 1871.

Recorder McAllen Green
 Treasurer J. R. Pumphrey
 Sheriff G. A. McOmber
 Surveyor J. F. Schofield
 Clerk of Court Stephen Harris
 Auditor A. Murry
 Assessor John Arbuckle
 Supervisors B. F. McCormack, C. W. Inman, T. J. Fields

1872.

Recorder	McAllen Green
Treasurer	J. R. Pumphrey
Sheriff	Ed. A. Nissen
Superintendent of Schools	Stephen Harris
Surveyor	A. J. Brock
Auditor	A. J. Edwards
Clerk of Court	Stephen Harris
Supervisors	
.....	B. F. McFarland, C. W. Inman, and I. L. Rerrick

1873.

Recorder	A. J. Brock
Treasurer	J. R. Pumphrey
Sheriff	Ed. A. Nissen
Superintendent of Schools	D. A. W. Perkins
Surveyor	A. J. Brock
Auditor	A. J. Edwards
Assessor	Jonathan Egy
Clerk of Courts	A. H. Willets
Supervisors	
.....	Harley Day, B. F. McCormack and C. F. Albright

1874.

Recorder	A. J. Brock
Treasurer	J. R. Pumphrey
Sheriff	Ed. A. Nissen
Superintendent of Schools	J. A. Smith
Surveyor	A. J. Brock
Auditor	A. J. Edwards
Clerk of Court	A. H. Willets
Supervisors	Horace E.
.....	Hoagland, Benjamin Jones, Warren Walker, John F.
.....	Burrows, Harley Day, C. F. Albright, and J. M. Royer

1875.

Recorder	A. J. Brock
Treasurer	J. R. Pumphrey
Sheriff	Ed. A. Nissen

Superintendent of Schools	J. A. Smith
Surveyor	A. J. Brock
Auditor	Geo. W. Schee
Clerk of Court	A. H. Willets
Supervisors	C. F. Albright, J. M. Royer, Warren Walker, Benj. Jones, Wm. E. Welch and John F. Burroughs

1876.

Recorder	A. J. Brock
Treasurer	Stephen Harris
Sheriff	Ed. A. Nissen
Superintendent of Schools	A. B. Chrysler
Surveyor	A. J. Brock
Auditor	Geo. W. Schee
Clerk of Court	A. H. Willets
Supervisors	Benj. Jones, W. W. Johnson, B. F. McCormack, John Royer, C. F. Albright, Wm. E. Welch, Warren Walker and John F. Hoagland

1877.

Recorder	C. Longshore
Treasurer	Stephen Harris
Sheriff	Ed. A. Nissen
Superintendent of Schools	A. B. Chrysler
Surveyor	W. H. Riddell
Auditor	Geo. W. Schee
Clerk of Court	A. H. Willets
Supervisors	Joseph

Rowland, J. M. Royer, Ralph Dodge, Benj. Jones,
Wm. E. Welch, W. W. Johnson and B. F. McCormack

1878.

Recorder	C. Longshore
Treasurer	T. J. Alexander
Surveyor	Ed. A. Smith
Sheriff	Mart Shea
Superintendent of Schools	Harley Day
Auditor	Geo. W. Schee
Coroner	H. L. Lanning

Clerk of Court A. H. Willets
 Supervisors B. F. Mc-
 Cormack, Ralph Dodge, Benj. Jones, W. W. John-
 son, Joseph Rowland, Thos. Holmes, and J. M. Royer

1879.

Recorder J. Hinshaw
 Treasurer T. J. Alexander
 Sheriff Mart Shea
 Surveyor Ed. A. Smith
 Superintendent of Schools Harley Day
 Auditor J. L. E. Peck
 Clerk of Court F. N. Derby
 Coroner Chas. Smith
 Supervisors

 Thomas Holmes, Ralph Dodge, Joseph Rowland,
 Wm. Oliver, E. Kindig, J. H. Wolf and E. M. Brady

1880.

Recorder J. Hinshaw
 Treasurer T. J. Alexander
 Sheriff Mart Shea
 Surveyor C. M. Griffith
 Superintendent of Schools Harley Day
 Auditor J. L. E. Peck
 Clerk of Court F. N. Derby
 Coroner Chas Smith
 Supervisors Thomas Holmes,

 Ralph Dodge, J. H. Wolf, E. M. Brady and E. Kindig

1881.

Recorder Herbert Sprague
 Treasurer T. J. Alexander
 Sheriff Mart Shea
 Surveyor C. M. Griffith
 Superintendent of Schools Harley Day
 Auditor J. L. E. Peck
 Clerk of Court F. N. Derby
 Coroner Chas Smith

Supervisors Thos. Holmes,
 Ralph Dodge, E. Kindig, E. M. Brady, and J. H. Wolf
 1882.

Recorder Herbert Sprague
 Treasurer T. J. Alexander
 Sheriff W. C. Green
 Surveyor J. A. Smith
 Superintendent of Schools D. Algyer
 Auditor J. L. E. Peck
 Clerk of Court W. N. Strong
 Coroner Chas. Smith
 Supervisors Thos. Holmes, Ralph

Dodge, E. M. Brady, Geo. Hakeman, and J. L. Kinney
 1883 same as in 1882.

1884.

Recorded Herbert Sprague
 Treasurer F. N. Derby
 Sheriff W. C. Green
 Surveyor J. A. Smith
 Superintendent of Schools D. Algyer
 Auditor T. J. Alexander
 Clerk F. A. Turner
 Coroner Chas. Smith
 Supervisors Ralph Dodge, E. M.

Brady, J. L. Kinney, Geo. Hakeman and D. M. Sheldon

1885.

Recorder W. H. Noyes
 Treasurer F. N. Derby
 Sheriff W. C. Green
 Surveyor J. A. Smith
 Superintendent of Schools D. Algyer
 Auditor T. J. Alexander
 Clerk of Court F. A. Turner
 Coroner Chas. Smith
 Supervisors D. M. Sheldon, Ralph Dodge, Henry
 Hoerman, W. W. Reynolds and O. M. Shonkwiler

1886.

Recorder	Isaac Clements
Treasurer	F. N. Derby
Sheriff	W. C. Green
Surveyor	J. A. Smith
Superintendent of Schools	D. Algyer
Auditor	T. J. Alexander
Coroner	B. S. Southan
Attorney	J. B. Dunn
Clerk of Court	F. A. Turner
Supervisors	D. M. Sheldon, J. W. Gaunt, Henry Hoerman, W. W. Reynolds, O. M. Skonkwiler

1887.

Recorder	Isaac Clements
Treasurer	F. N. Derby
Sheriff	W. C. Green
Surveyor	J. A. Smith
Superintendent of Schools	C. H. Crawford
Auditor	C. H. Winterble
Clerk of Court	F. A. Turner
Coroner	L. F. Searles
Attorney	J. B. Dunn
Supervisors	W. W. Renolds, J. E. Wheelock, J. W. Gaunt

1888.

Recorder	Isaac Clements
Treasurer	F. N. Derby
Sheriff	W. C. Green
Surveyor	J. A. Smith
Superintendent of Schools	C. H. Crawford
Auditor	C. H. Winterble
Coroner	F. L. Searles
Supervisors	G. O. Wheeler, H. P. Scott, W. W. Reynolds

1889.

Recorder	Isaac Clements
Treasurer	Henry Rerrick

Sheriff	W. A. Noyes
Surveyor	J. A. Smith
Superintendent of Schools	Isabella Cowan
Auditor	C. H. Winterble
Clerk of Court	J. W. Walter
Attorney	J. B. Dunn
Coroner	C. L. Gurney
Supervisors	J. A. Warner, W. W. Reynolds, J. E. Wheelock

1890.

Recorder	Isaac Clements
Treasurer	Henry Herrick
Sheriff	W. H. Noyes
Superintendent of Schools	Isabella Cowan
Auditor	C. H. Winterble
Clerk of Court	J. W. Walters
Coroner	D. Algier
Attorney	J. B. Dunn
Supervisors	Wm.

Oliver, H. P. Scott, G. O. Wheeler, W. W. Reynolds

1891.

Recorder	F. D. Mitchell
Treasurer	Henry Rerrick
Sheriff	W. H. Noyes
Surveyor	F. E. Wade
Superintendent of Schools	Ella Seckerson
Auditor	C. H. Winterble
Clerk of Court	J. W. Walters
Coroner	D. Algier
Attorney	J. B. Dunn
Supervisors	J. Bowley,

C. Parker, Chas. Youder, Wm. Oliver, J. A. Warner

1892.

The officers of this year, the same as in 1891, except J. T. Conn, county attorney, in place of J. B. Dunn, and some change in supervisors.

1893.

Recorder	F. D. Mitchell
Treasurer	Henry Rerick
Sheriff	S. A. Carter
Surveyor	F. E. Wade
Superintendent of Schools	Ella Seckerson
Auditor	C. H. Winterble
Clerk of Court	W. S. Armstrong
Coroner	D. Algier
County Attorney	J. T. Conn
Supervisors	John Bowley, E. T.

Parker, John Warnake, J. K. McAndrew, John Rhodes

1894.

Recorder	F. L. Herrick
Treasurer	Henry Rerick
Sheriff	S. A. Carter
Surveyor	F. E. Wade
Superintendent of Schools	Ella Seckerson
Auditor	C. H. Winterble
Clerk of Court	W. S. Armstrong
Coroner	D. Algier
Attorney	J. T. Conn
Snpervisors	John Warnake, Benj. Jones,

D. M. Sheldon, W. W. Johnson and J. K. McAndrew

1895.

The officers of this year, the same as in 1894, except J. T. Conn, auditor, and D. A. W. Perkins, attorney.

1896.

Recorder	F. L. Herrick
Treasurer	C. R. West
Sheriff	S. A. Carter
Surveyor	F. E. Wade
Superintendent of Schools	Ella Seckerson
Auditor	J. T. Conn
Clerk of Court	W. S. Armstrong

Coroner	E. W. Parker
County Attorney	D. A. W. Perkins
Supervisors	Jones, Sheldon, McAndrew, and Johnson. Warnake died, and ————— was appointed 1897.
Recorder	F. L. Herrick
Treasurer	C. R. West
Sheriff	S. A. Carter
Surveyor	F. E. Wade
Superintendent of Schools	Ella Seckerson
Auditor	J. T. Conn
Clerk of Court	S. A. Martin
Coroner	E. W. Parker
County Attorney	C. A. Babcock
Supervisors	Benj. Jones, D. M. Sheldon, Henry Appeldorn, J. K. McAndrews, W. W. Johnson



ABEL APPLETON AND FAMILY.

CHAPTER XIII.

POLITICS.

The county has had its share of political maneuvers; politics is an American industry. If a yankee should be cast away on a desolate island, he would by nature, first divide the territory into election precincts, and next, post notices for a caucus. Running for an office seems to be a trade by itself, and they who are professional politicians, must know all the devices, that belong to the art of getting votes. Sometimes men are elected upon their negative qualities, that is a successful party often goes in, because he has been silent in speech, while his wisdom consisted only in looking wise. He has moved along successfully in business, has had no ideas to express, consequently has offended nobody. There is another class, who shout themselves in, and play the reform dodge, as Joe Smith has it. "Formally it was said: Not all who cry Lord: Lord: shall enter the kingdom of heaven: so at the present day it is not universally the case, that they who pump political wind with the greatest persistency, and assume a rich politico-satisfied look, have the best interests of the public at heart." It is rare in these degenerate political days, that a man goes into office upon his merits, but he gets there by reason of the time and money expended in his behalf. Still the public will brand a man with defeat, when it is thoroughly known that he is unfitted. Some men are also natural vote getters, and there are others, whose success seems to be a matter of destiny. Daniel Webster was by nature an intellectual hero, he towered above his fellows, as the oak towers above the sapling, but in his struggle for the presidential prize he fought against fate

and fortune, while Grant took the tide at its flood, which bore him onward to the goal, that was the height of Webster's ambition. James G. Blaine, one of the purest men in public life, and an intellectual giant, seemed fated to miss the mark, while Cleveland easily gained it. As long as we are a Republic, there will be offices to be filled by the people, and plenty of candidates vexing their bodily health and mental serenity, by sleepless nights in an effort to secure them. There have been many hard fought battles in the county, in political conventions some bad blood stirred up, and estrangements between men that have lasted for years. In O'Brien county, which has always had a republican majority, there has been now and then a democrat elected to office, which passeth political understanding, but still cannot be accounted for in no other way, than either republican voters, were by political tactics lured over into the camp of the enemy, or else these same voters did not like their candidate, and under the authority of a certain plank in the platform years ago, refused to support him.

As there is a woman suffrage association in the county, as well as in the entire state, Sister Woods of Sutherland may see the time, when she and her gallant and heroic coadjutors, will march triumphantly to the polls with the ballot, and the right to cast it, and then of course, all political ills are done away with.

Some years ago, C. C. Carpenter and Judge Pendleton of Sioux City were candidates for congress before the convention at Cherokee. Carpenter had his agents here, active in his behalf, and Pendleton was not lacking in strong support. At the county convention to select delegates, the contention was bitter and long drawn out, and finally resulted in two sets of delegates, one for Carpenter and the other for Pendleton, and of course both sets were there. A few from each delegation were brought up before the convention, placed upon the witness stand, and interrogated as to their right to represent the county, and after more or less filibustering, strange

to say, in the Carpenter convention, the Pendleton delegates got in by one-sixth of a vote. It seems to be a custom by adoption in the county to give a county officer two terms, but the force of it we never could see, as the better rule would be, if an officer was worthy and well qualified, and just the man, continue him indefinitely, and if unfitted, and 'not the man, turn him out after a single term. Any man who has no other claim to an office, save that of being entitled to it by heirship, is not the man for the office, and should give place to another. I remember a candidate for a county office some years ago, simple enough to believe everything that was told him, and who stated to me before election, that I would



FIRST STORE IN HARTLEY.

be astonished at the immense majority he would receive. He was snowed under unmercifully, and meeting him the next day he said, "Perkins, there are five hundred d——d liars in O'Brien county." Under the Australian ballot system, political maneuvering and manipulations at the polls, have been done away with, and we seem to be reasonably free from that species of fraud, which prevailed under the old system.

SQUATTER LAND.

There were 17,000 acres of land in O'Brien county, which since 1884, have caused much contention and excessive litigation. These lands are located in Floyd, Carroll, Dale, Baker, Highland and Center townships. They were set apart by Congress in 1864, in order to encourage, and aid the building of railroads, one from McGregor, Iowa, on west, and the

other from the Minnesota state line to Sioux City, the two roads to form a junction in O'Brien county. The road first building through, was the Sioux City and St. Paul road, which is now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, and when this road reached LeMars, it made a contract with the Illinois Central, to use its track to Sioux City, and has not yet built a track of its own to Sioux City. After this building of the Sioux City and St. Paul road to LeMars, they made proof at the land office at Sioux City, for the purpose of obtaining title, at which the contention commenced as to their right to all of these lands, and finally the matter got into the civil courts, and at last between the two companies it was submitted to arbitration, the decision in which was an equal division of the lands. This decision, not being satisfactory to the Sioux City and St. Paul Co. the matter was further litigated, until a final decision was reached, which divided the lands between the two companies. There would not have been any trouble between the two companies, had it not been for the junction, as each road was granted every alternate section on each side, and by certain conditions, twenty miles on each, but made no provision for the twenty miles square at the junction point, so that these lands were designated as overlapping lands, and were claimed by both companies. The Sioux City and St. Paul R. R., was not built across O'Brien county until 1872, eight years after the passage of the act, and the Milwaukee did not build across the county, until 1878, fourteen years after the land grant act. During this time of litigation between the two companies, there was considerable murmuring, and a feeling of discontent on the part of the people of O'Brien county, that the lands were withheld from the market, a feeling that the lands should be sold, and settled upon, and during the discussion it began to be proclaimed, that the Sioux City and St. Paul R. R. had not earned its lands, and that this company's share of the land was open to settlement. The talk culminated in settlement and occupation, and a squatter war was soon inaugurated.

Many parties had purchased lands, and for awhile the controversy was active and bitter. Cases of forcible entry and detainer were brought, and justice courts kept busy hearing and deciding. Cases were appealed, and other actions of ejectment were brought in the district court. There was no contest over that part of the lands claimed by the Milwaukee company, as the question arose solely, over the question, that the Sioux City and St. Paul company had not earned the lands. We think that the first one to boldly make settlement, and do the first act to antagonize the Sioux City and St. Paul company by occupation, was Dr. H. M. Hamblin, who went to work breaking, and erecting a house on a piece of this disputed land near Primghar.

He boldly maintained his right to it, claimed that the company had not earned it, and that he had as much right to it as did any settler upon government land in the county, fifteen years before. He made this move in February, 1884, and it was but the signal for many others, for

nearly three hundred of them followed suit, and soon the prairie was alive with active operations in taking this land, and building upon it.

These settlements continued, the squatters formed an Association, employed lawyers, and were ready to fight, and did fight at every stage of the proceedings. The contest was



RESIDENCE OF M. E. COLBY, HARTLEY.

finally brought squarely at issue between the squatters and the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad Co. The case at last reached the docket of the United States Supreme Court, a court of the last resort.

This court decided in favor of the squatters, or rather decided, that the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad Co, had not earned these lands, and hence, so far as the company and the squatters were concerned, the company had no right to the land. The United States land department, then took charge of the lands, and prescribed the method of making final proof before the land office at Des Moines, and then another battle was precipitated. The purchasers from the Sioux City and St. Paul Co., some by deed and others by contract, claimed that by virtue of a law of congress, they could hold as innocent purchasers, and while the company could not hold them under the decision, its grantees who were innocent purchasers, could. These cases, between the purchasers and the squatters, have been tried in the land office at Des Moines, and the register and receiver of that office, seem to hold, that one who bought from the company, where there was a squatter in possession, and occupancy at the time of the purchase, was not an innocent purchaser, and on this branch of the case, he held with the squatters. The cases have been appealed to the land commissioner at Washington, and at this writing have not been decided. After they are decided by the commissioner, they are subject to further appeal to the secretary of the interior, and even after his decision, liable to go again into the civil courts. The Squatters' Union, has certainly done valient battle, somewhat expensive it is true, but still, if successful at last, the value of the land is such, that the outcome will be profitable. The purchasers from the company, have also fought at every turn with able counsel, and at the price they are to pay, if successful, their investment will turn out to be one of profit. At first some of the active participants in the behalf af the Squatters' Union were H. M. Hamblin, John Harkins, L. G. Gates, R. P. Jones and W. R.

Powers. The suit as between the two companies was decided in May, 1886, and in September of that year, the Governor of Iowa caused to be patented to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Co., thirty-eight thousand acres of these lands, which settled that much of it. The company previous to that time, had contracted its land to the Close Bros., a real estate firm, had also sold to the Western Land Co. After this patent was issued for these Milwaukee Company lands, the Western Land Company brought over one hundred actions against the squatters, to recover possession, but the squatters fought back, and brought action to secure right to their improvements.

After the suit was determined between the two companies, the Western Land Company gave the squatters a preference right of thirty days to purchase the lands, most of whom did, and the lands are held by thrifty farmers without contention. The suit in the United States Supreme Court, which finally settled the question between the Sioux City and St. Paul R. R. was instituted by act of Congress, in order that the question might be settled, as to whether the Sioux City and St. Paul R. R. was entitled to the lands, or not.



RESIDENCE OF J. M. YEOMANS, HARTLEY.

Questions were raised also upon the line of proceeding, as to whether these lands were taxable. The people of the county contended, that these lands should have been taxed from 1873 and 1878 respectively from the building of the two roads. There

was however some understanding, and we think a contract by way of compromise between the companies and the board of supervisors, whereby the companies agreed to pay the taxes, in 1884, and for succeeding years, and the board were to cancel the claim for taxes prior to that year, which was done. The following is substantially the record entries relating to these lands. An act of Congress entitled: An act for a grant of claims to the state of Iowa in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of a railroad in said state. Approved May 12, 1864.

An act of the general assembly of the state of Iowa, approved April 20, 1866, entitled: An act to accept the grant of land to the state of Iowa in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of a railroad in said state.

An act of the general assembly of the state of Iowa, approved February 27, 1868, entitled, an act to resume all the lands and rights conferred upon the McGregor Western Railroad company, by or under an act of congress, approved May 12, 1864.

An act of the general assembly of the state of Iowa, approved March 31, 1868, entitled, "an act making a grant of land to the McGregor and Sioux City Railroad company, or in case of their failure to accept the same, to the forty-third parallel, and to execute the trust conferred by act of congress entitled; an act for a grant of land to the state of Iowa, in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of a railroad in said state, approved May 12, 1864.

An act of the general assembly of the state of Iowa, approved March 15, 1876, entitled, "an act relating to the lands heretofore granted to the McGregor and Missouri Railroad company, resuming said lands, and regulating the same upon new conditions to said company, and providing for forfeiture thereof, and in case of such forfeiture, for the disposition to be made of said lands.

An act of the general assembly of the state of Iowa, approved February 27, 1878, entitled an act in relation to the

lands granted the state of Iowa in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of a railroad in said state, approved May 13, 1864, and to impose upon the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway company, the powers and the liabilities mentioned in chapter 4, title 10, code of Iowa.

A duly certified copy of map of location of route, filed by the McGregor and Western Railroad company, August 30, 1864, in the general land office at Washington, D. C.

Duly certified copies of maps of location of route, filed by the McGregor and Sioux City Railroad company in the general land office, at Washington, D. C., January 27, 1869, and the second day of September, 1869, respectively.

There were letters from the commissioner of the general land office bearing date May 13, 1868, to the governor of Iowa to D. D. Shepard, dated October 8, 1868, and November 13, 1868, respectively; letter from Russell Sage to the secretary of the interior, bearing date March 8, 1869, and the reply of the secretary thereto; also a copy of final certificate of governor of Iowa on completion of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul R. R.



SCOTT MARTIN.

Patents from the United States to the state of Iowa for lands in controversy in this suit, with other lands, for the benefit of the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad Company, and other defendants. A copy of which decree being filed in the recorder's office of said O'Brien county, on the 25th day of May, 1886, and recorded in book 23 of deeds, at pages 197 to 214 inclusive.

Orders of United States Circuit Court, confirming the report of commissioners partitioning joint indemnity, and joint lands between the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R. Company, recorded in the recorder's office of said O'Brien county, in miscellaneous records, pages 244 to 253 inclusive.

Record of patent from the state of Iowa to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company for lands in question, said patent being recorded in recorder's office of said O'Brien county in book 33 of deeds, pages 480 to 484.

Deed from the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, of lands in question to the said Western Land Company, recorded in recorder's office of O'Brien county in book 23, pages 529 to 531. There were several comical things grew out of the land office litigation, over these lands at Des Moines. People from a distance had read about the decision, which decided these lands to be open for settlement, and a large number flocked at Des Moines and to O'Brien county, in order to avail themselves of a government homestead. The land lawyers at Des Moines coined money from these innocent seekers after land, charged them a good round sum for selecting a quarter section for them, and attending to their filing in the land office, and several filings were on one quarter. There were also some transfers of filing rights, and the extent of these transactions between men over these claims, will never fully be known.

It is enough to know, that the land agents at Des Moines were well up in their job, and no land seeker was permitted to depart without leaving a portion of the contents of his pocket book, in the palm of one of this indispensable fraternity. The writer, who was county attorney at the time, did, by reason of his office, receive a large number of letters from the east, making inquiries concerning these lands. Several were from the extreme east, where the writers of them knew nothing about the west, and had an idea as some eastern people have, that we are sort of semi-civilized. One fellow wanted to know how much timber it would cut to the acre,

and whether it would be safe to bring the old woman along. Another inquired if the Indians were very troublesome, and how far away to the nearest town, and still another wrote, that he wanted to come, but his father said he would never consent to his going, where there were neither schools nor churches, and wanted to know if I thought sometime we would have these. In all I got about twenty-five letters, and many of them were on the above order.

There was considerable strife for awhile, between owners and squatters, and a few personal encounters. Sometimes a squatter shack would disappear in the night, or be found in the road a total wreck, and sometimes, two fighting parties would be plowing on the same quarter. But the land department and the courts will finally settle all differences, though it may be several years yet, but when finally settled, each side as law abiding citizens will gracefully yield to the majesty of the law.

COUNTY SEAT.

Since the removal of the county seat to Primghar, as usual with all counties, there has been a desire on the part of other towns to obtain it. Sheldon made an effort in 1879. Notice was published in the Sheldon Mail that petitions would be circulated, and presented to the board.

Sanborn saw no reason why it had not as good a right to enter the contest as Sheldon had, so Sanborn also published in the Pioneer, a similar notice. Primghar stirred itself with remonstrances, and the fight was vigorous, if not bitter on both sides.

Sheldon had 532 names, which frightened Sanborn out, and this town did not file its petition. The time was set for hearing by the board, and the only question to be determined was,



A. J. WALDSMITH.

whether Sheldon had the required number of names, and if so, whether the names of the remonstrators out-numbered those of the petitioners. Not until the morning of the time set for hearing, did the people of Primghar fully realize the danger of defeat. Attorneys for Primghar occupied the time of the first day, in arguing motions for time, and the very time spent in arguing, answered the purposes of the motion. In the meantime Primghar had every available man and conveyance, out in the county soliciting names on the remonstrance, the result of which was, that Sheldon was finally defeated, and Primghar was once more at ease.

In 1882, Sanborn so to speak, lost its head. It did not for the time being, see any use of trying to secure the county seat by petitions, so concluded at the proper time, to march down and bodily move it, from Primghar to Sanborn. It was a beautiful moonlight night on the 23d of November, when about one hundred men, with teams, timbers, and other devices, reached Primghar about 12 o'clock at night. Primghar was then but a small village, and many of its citizens including its county officers, except J. L. E. Peck, were at St. Paul upon an excursion; those not away were slumbering peacefully in their beds. These county seat raiders had the recorder's safe loaded, and started off for Sanborn, the treasurer's safe was loaded on a wagon, as also were nearly all the books and papers of the county. The noise made by these Sanbornites, went out on the still air of the night.

A few restless slumberers awoke, and soon the town was astir. Excitement prevailed on all sides, but soon organization was completed, and interference was made. They tackled the means of transportation, pulling out linch pins, pulling nuts off the wagons, cutting harness, and otherwise checking as far as possible, the progress of the raiders. The board of supervisors were soon on the scene, and as Primghar had sent for recruits from the country, by daylight a great many men and women were on the ground. As soon as possible after the

gathering of some of the crowd, a chain around the court house square was taken off, and wound around the treasurer's safe, then around a tree, thus anchoring this money receptacle in safety. By 10 o'clock of the next day, about five hundred indignant farmers from around Primghar, were in Sanborn with blood in their eye, and demanded the return of the records, which had been deposited in a building at Sanborn. At this stage of the proceeding, better counsel prevailed; there was a meeting of the board, and auditor Peck with the citizens of Sanborn talked the matter over. Sanborn did the manly act, by expressions of apology and regret, averring that it was a sort of impromptu matter, caused by unwise enthusiasm, and the affair had gone beyond what was expected. It was stated, that they were willing to return all the records, and repair all damage caused by the raid. This was done according to promise. The new wagon used to remove the treasurer's safe was still at Primghar, and the men and women on their way to Sanborn, expressed their feeling, by attacking this wagon and about demolishing it, then set up the tongue, upon which a flag was soon afterwards placed, which was floating in triumph, when the records were taken back.

Thus ended the last attempt to remove the county seat, and Primghar fully recovered its sudden and excited scare.

As usual upon such subjects, the poet got in his work, and among others a Sanborn poet, who wrote as follows, which appeared in the papers at that time.



H. B. FERRY.

What is it, that hustled the Primghar lads?
 And stood nearly all of them onto their heads,
 And made Col. Pumphrey come down with the scads?
 The County Seat!

What made them gather around in a bunch,
 At Tift's saloon for his free lunch,
 And close it up with a bowl of punch?
 The County Seat.

What made old "Samul" so short and sharp,
 And on his land and his taxes harp,
 And cause him so much to fret and carp?
 The County Seat!

What made the County Dads so long
 In session, when they to their farms belong,
 And to swallow such camphor to make them strong?
 The County Seat!

What made Clark Green get up on his ear?
 And swear about Sheldon far and near,
 With a string of adjectives swift and clear?
 The County Seat!

What was it made such a busy sight,
 And hustled all Primghar around in the night,
 Working for life with main and might?
 The County Seat!

What was it sent Sheldon boys away
 To Primghar, and be there day after day,
 And made things lively during their stay?
 The County Seat!

What is it that wont let Primghar sleep?
 But will keep her uneasy and make her weep;
 Something she's got, but never can keep,
 The County Seat!

What was it made Barrett so slow to tell,
 That we worked so hard and worked so well.
 But passed in our checks and gone to h—l?
 The County Seat!

The newspapers warred among themselves over the raid, yet none but those of Sanborn seemed to justify, and these more in a humorous way. There was an attempt to indict, and strong efforts made, but the grand jury did not think it best, at least they found no bill against anyone. At this

distance of fifteen years from the attempted removal, it seems singular, and even to those who were in it, that such a thing was ever thought of, but the feeling was, that the county was so anxious to get it out of Primghar, that the voters would acquiesce. It is wonderful that the matter went as far as it did, and nobody hurt, for in a more settled county than O'Brien was at that time, there would have been a serious fight, followed by bloodshed.



C. F. BUTTERFIELD AND FAMILY.

CHAPTER XIV.

COURTS AND COURT RECORDS.

The first court of record held in O'Brien county, was on the 9th day of June, 1862, and was held upon the following order issued by Judge Hubbard.

STATE OF IOWA, }
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. }

To the clerk of the District Court of O'Brien county:

You are hereby notified, that a term of the district court, within and for said county, will be held commencing on the 9th day of June, 1862, and will continue in session two days if the business requires it.

Given under my hand this 24th day of April, 1862.

A. W. HUBBARD,

Judge 4th Judicial District of Iowa.

This court was held at the county seat at old O'Brien, in accordance with this order, and adjourned the next day on June 10.

Owing to the scarcity of lawyers, there must have been no cause for litigation, as the proceedings were very limited.

The first judicial act of Judge Hubbard was to naturalize Henry Golleckson, Kun de Stennerson, and Christian Johnson, they were from Norway, and took the usual oath of allegiance, to the best government on earth, and declared their attachment to the principles of our Constitution.

The next case was an action upon account, wherein Collins, Kellogg and Kerby, were plaintiffs, and Adolph Wehrmann was defendant. Default was made, and judgment was rendered for \$449.

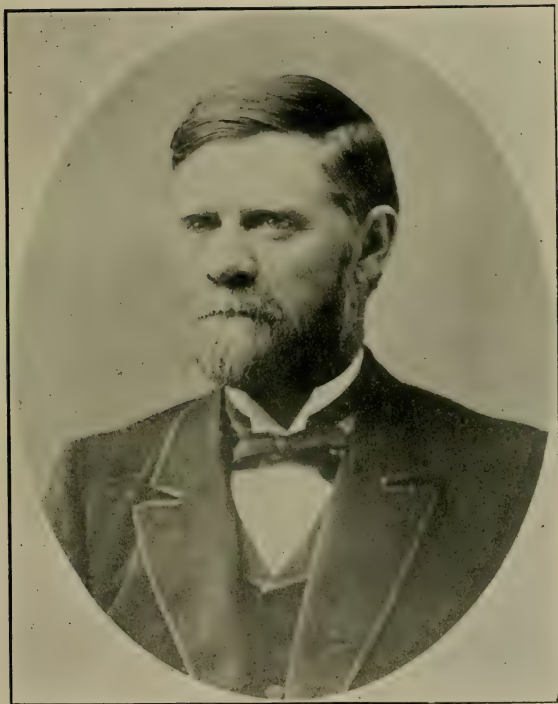
The next, and the last case, was Greely, Gale & Co., against Adolph Wehrmann, August Wehrmann and F. Wehrmann. This was an action to set aside a conveyance, being a deed, made by Adolph and Augusta, to F. Wehrmann, of all of section 29, all of section 33, and the west half of the southwest quarter, and the west half of the southeast quarter of section 19, also west half of southwest quarter of section 20. All of the above in township 96, range 39, being now civil township Omega.

Also the southeast quarter of section 20, in township 97, range 41, now civil township Franklin, and the east half of section 30, and the southeast quarter of section 19, in township 96, range 41, being now civil township Summit.

There was default in this case, the conveyance was set aside, and the premises above described, were subjected to the debt against F. Wehrmann, and decree entered accordingly. This completed the business of the first term of district court.

There seems to be no record of any term in O'Brien county of a district court from this first term until November, 1870, which was held by Judge Henry Ford. It seems singular that there was no term of this court between 1862 and 1870, but if there was such, the record of it has been dropped out of existence. At this November term, the record is somewhat incomplete. The first statement by the clerk is, that court was to be convened on the 2d day of November, 1870, but the judge not appearing, it was adjourned until the next day. The next entry is, that court having adjourned from the first to the second day, and from the second day to the third day, it now convened on the 26th day of November, 1870, and this day it seems was the first day of that term.

The attorneys who figured at this term were, Wilson & Dry and O'Connell & Harley. There were a few judgments rendered at this term, and no litigated cases. The next term of the district court was held in June, 1871, Judge Henry Ford presiding. The attorneys in attendance were Wilson



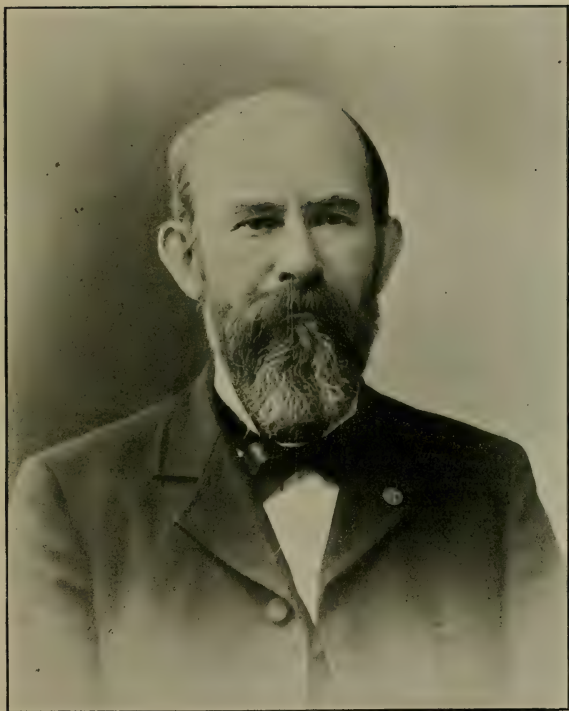
HON. CHARLES H. LEWIS.

& Dry, I. M. Pemberton, Eugene Cowles, Orson Rice, and Geo. F. Haswell. This term was of only two days duration. But one judgment was rendered, and this against the poor oppressed county of O'Brien, one other case was continued, and the third case was changed in venue to Cherokee county.

The next term was held December 1, 1871, and at this term is the first mention of a grand jury. The same Judge Henry Ford presided, and C. H. Lewis was district attorney. Mr. Lewis filed a motion, that the venire issued by the clerk be set aside for certain irregularities, and that a jury be drawn from the body of the county, which was done.

The fifteen grand jurors drawn were: Adam Towberman, L. C. Washburn, Horace Gilbert, P. A. Hurlbert, W. A. Acer, John Wood, Robert E. Wood, Ed. Parker, Gus Baker, S. G. Sutter, Harley Day, Henry Smith, Wm. Welch, John Brock, and Miles Allen. Adam Towberman was named as foreman.

This grand jury reported the next day, that there was no cause for indictment. There was no petit jury at this term, and no business, except one judgment rendered. There is no intention to pursue the records of this court, but the writer thought that a review of some of the early judicial business would be of interest. The next term of the district court was held June 27, 1872—Henry Ford, judge; C. H. Lewis, district attorney; Stephen Harris, clerk, by A. H. Willets, deputy; Ed. A. Nissen, sheriff. There were no trial cases, but quite a number of judgments rendered. The regular panel of grand jury was set aside on motion of Mr. Lewis and a jury drawn from the body of the county, they were, W. Parsons, John W. Kelly, Thomas Scott, J. P. Blood, A. J. Brock, J. H. Alexander, H. C. Wheeler, J. Broser, R. G. Allen, J. S. Wagner, Horace Gilbert, August Baker, and J. G. Arbuckle. This grand jury was ordered to retire, to consider any causes for indictment, but the record is silent as to what became of them, and if the writer did not know that some of them were long since borne to their final rest, there



HON. GEORGE W. WAKEFIELD.

would be no other conclusion than they were still out deliberating. The most of the judgments rendered, were against O'Brien county, and this poor bedraggled defendant, was defaulted continuously, and indeed it seems there was no need of court, only to render judgments against it.

In November, 1872, on the 29th, was held a special term of court, at which three judgments were rendered against O'Brien county, aggregating \$5,550. One judgment against district township of Grant, and two against district township of Waterman.

The next term was held in April in 1873. There was no grand jury, and no petit jury; several judgments were rendered, and after being in session two days, court adjourned to hold special session November 17, 1873. This session was never held, as the judge adjourned it sine die.

The next regular term was held April 16, 1874. The attorneys in attendance so far as the records disclose were Eugene Cowles, Barrett & Allen, G. S. Robinson, D. A. W. Perkins and Kellogg & Lewis. This term was the first of this court held at Primghar, as the county seat, since the previous term, had been moved from old O'Brien. There was no business transacted at this term, except the entry of default judgments.

The next term of this court was convened March 1, 1875. Since a previous term, C. H. Lewis had been elected judge, and presided at this term. The following were the members of the grand jury: A. W. Balcom, G. W. Edwards, W. C. Butterfield, John F. Burroughs, N. S. Tobin, C. H. Moon, C. Lingenfelter, Wm. W. Johnson, H. M. Crosby, Ben. Epperson and H. G. Hammond. Mr. Hammond was elected foreman. At this term there was a petit jury, but no cases were heard by them. The names of this first petit jury in this court were as follows: Morris King, A. B. Nash, Charles Stearns, G. W. Doyle, James Magee, George Miller F. H. Reddout. These were the regular drawn panel and responded to the roll call. The rest of the panel who should have been present, but



HON. WILLIAM HUTCHINSON.

failed to respond, were: Ed Shea, A. W. Johnson, Frank Morfitt, Charles Parker, E. E. Robinson, George Klock and P. C. Hicks. As there were no cases to be tried, the court undoubtedly saw no reason to send for delinquents. There^{*}is, as in a former record, no further mention of the grand jury, so that they, with members previously missing, must still be waiting to be called in. The business of this term was mostly upon questions of pleadings, and default judgments.

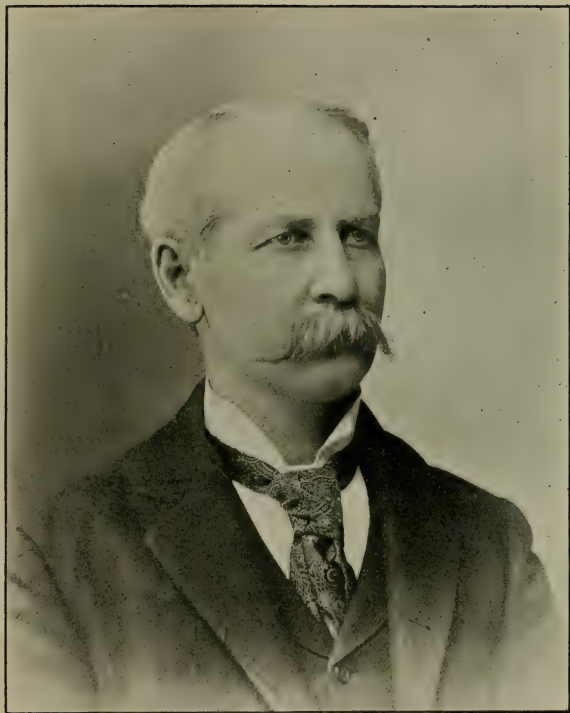
The first criminal case on the calendar, was at the September term of the district court, 1875. When the case was called, defendant failed to appear. The record is so meager that there is no record of the indictment. There were also two other criminal cases the same year, in both of which, defendants failed to appear. The fine first imposed in a criminal case, was upon a plea of guilty in the case of State of Iowa vs. Henry Shultz, for selling liquor contrary to law. He was fined \$20 and costs, except \$10 of the costs, were taxed to the plaintiff. The first jury case tried in this court, was in April, 1874, in case of Ransom Bartle vs. Wm. Lyle; D. A. W. Perkins was for the plaintiff and John Connell for defendant. We do not deem it necessary to follow the records of this court further.

CIRCUIT COURT.

The circuit court abolished some years ago, was created by the legislature in 1868, and the first term of this court was held at old O'Brien, on the 25th day of November, 1869. Judge Addison Oliver, presided. H. F. Parker was clerk and John Patchen, sheriff. The first day there was no business, and court adjourned until the next day.

The next day there was no business and court adjourned again, to the day following.

The third day court convened again in the forenoon, and the entry is, "there being no business ready, court adjourned until afternoon." In the afternoon there was one judgment rendered, when it was found there was no further business, and court adjourned until the regular term. The next term

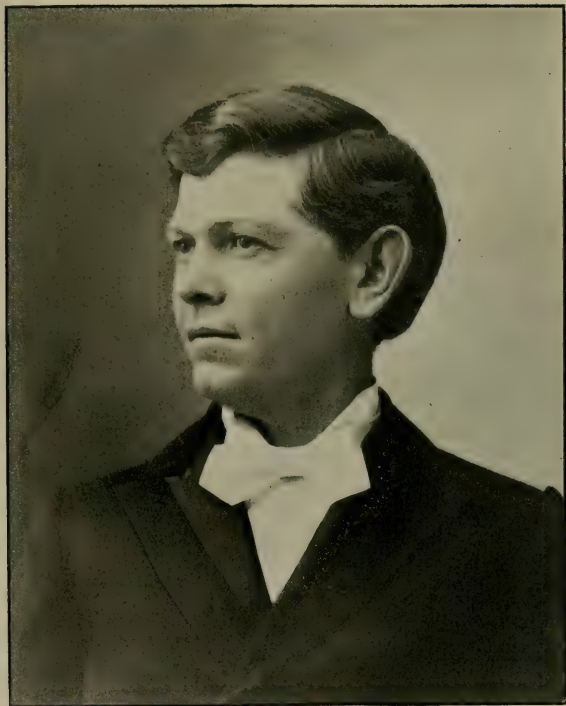


HON. FRANK R. GAYNOR.

was May 19, 1870, at which time the judge fixed the time for future terms of court, adopted certain rules of practice, sustained two demurrers, and adjourned. 1871 must have been a blissful year for the inhabitants of O'Brien county, as Judge Oliver in appointing commissioners of insanity, states in his order.

"It appearing that there is no practicing physician or lawyer in the county of O'Brien, it is ordered; that Dr. Butler, and C. H. Lewis, Esq., of Cherokee county, be and are hereby appointed commissioners of insanity pro tempore." The only wonder is, that the commissioners were needed, as under such a peaceful condition of society, surely there could be no insane.

The next term of the circuit court, Judge Oliver still presiding, was held February 24, 1871. There was only one case, in which judgment was rendered by default. This court held further terms August 25, 1871, April 12, 1872. There was the usual routine of business, principally default judgments. A jury had been called for this April, 1872, term, and when the roll was called, the only persons responding, were Hiram Henebaugh, John Loder, L. C. Greene, N. Remington, Sydney Vicus and Oren Finch. It was stated to these jurors by the court, that there were no cases for trial, and they were discharged. The records of the circuit court are imperfectly written, but several terms were held following the last mentioned, with very little business to transact. The next term where a jury was called was at the May term, 1875. The jury at this term were John Carey, J. W. Walter, R. C. Tift, M. O'Neil, D. Harkness, G. W. Doyle, Oliver Evans, J. W. Hibbs, George Hardin, S. Hedges, Robert Jones, A. Keefer. At this term, the first jury trial in this court was had, in a case wherein William Reynolds was plaintiff, and Nash Bros., defendants. D. A. W. Perkins tried the case on behalf of the plaintiff, and Barrett and Allen on behalf of the defendants. The plaintiff had saved about forty bushels of wheat from the ravages of grasshoppers, and had it stored in his house during



HON. JOHN F. OLIVER.

the winter of 1874, while he was at Cherokee working to earn a living for his family. While absent, defendants by an officer seized the wheat on execution and sold it. This action was for its value, claimed as exempt. The jury quickly gave plaintiff his judgment.

The circuit court was abolished in 1886 by the legislature. At the time of its abolishment, there were on the bench in that court. Hon. D. D. McCallum and Hon. George W. Wakefield. Mr. Wakefield was afterwards elected district judge. Upon the resignation of Hon. Addison Oliver in 1874, Hon. J. R. Zuver was appointed by the governor, to succeed Judge Oliver, and afterwards elected. The latter part of his term, he was unable to hold court regularly, on account of bodily infirmities. Hon. D. D. McCallum died of cancer in 1895.

Judge Hubbard was a good jurist, a gentleman and scholar. He died many years ago. Judge Ford is at Tacoma, Washington. Judge Pendleton died a few years ago at Sioux City. He was one of nature's noblemen. Judge Zuver also died a few years ago. Judge Lewis is in practice at Sioux City. As a judge he was fair and impartial, and of much judicial ability. Joe Smith, in his history of Harrison county, says of him, that "he served more consecutive years on the bench than any other man in the state of Iowa, except the Hon. George W. Ruddick of Bremer county, which would indicate the fitness of the man, and the faith which they had in his integrity."

Our present judges are Hon. Frank R. Gaynor of LeMars, Hon. William Hutchinson of Orange City, Hon. John F. Oliver of Onawa, and Hon. George W. Wakefield of Sioux City.

Judge Hutchinson has been recently appointed by the Governor, but his fitness for the bench, his method of dispatching business, and his fairness and legal attainments, have already brought the encomiums of the bar, and the approval of the people.

Judge Gaynor in a quiet methodical way, performs the duties of his office, and in his administration of justice, he knows not friend nor foe. His judicial ability has long since been acknowledged, and there could not have been any higher endorsement, than that of his last nomination, when a political party, opposite to his own faith, made him their choice as a candidate, and gave him warm support, both lawyers and laymen.

Judge Wakefield sits upon the bench like a philosopher. He served three years in the army, and is an old resident of Sioux City. He aims to do justice to all, with the strictest impartiality, the highest qualities of a judge, and this coupled with a thorough knowledge of the law, establishes an eminent fitness for the duties of his office.

Judge Oliver is the son of his father, and brings to the discharge of his duties, many of the father's qualifications.

He has his own way of searching into the merits of a controversy, with no other intention, than to be sure that right shall prevail.

Judge Oliver is frank and outspoken, and any member of the bar may be sure, if he has occasion to know it, that the presiding judge has charge of the court proceedings. His legal qualifications however, and his unquestioned integrity, have convinced the bar and the people of the district, that he is well fitted for the bench. He succeeded Hon. A. Van Wagenen.



HON. SCOTT M. LADD.

Hon. Scott M. Ladd was in the practice of law at Sheldon, when promoted to the district bench in 1886. He served from that time until his election as a supreme court judge in 1896. He was popular with the bar of the district, and had the confidence of the people. His promotion to the supreme bench was a fitting recognition of his judicial ability, and his character as a man.

The courts and lawyers are quite a part of governmental machinery, and while the law is regarded as a science, something which adjusts upon principle and precedent, the jarring elements of society, yet it is often used by some in attempting to perpetrate an injustice. A client who consults a lawyer, does not always want to know so much what the law is, but how it can be used for his particular benefit.

While law has been defined by one eminent writer as a rule of action, given by the majority which the minority are bound to obey, still, a student once in process of examination for admission to the bar, upon being asked what the law was, stated, that it was that which was boldly asserted, and most plausibly maintained. The early days of the county were free from litigation, it was not until the removal of the county seat to Primghar, that there were any trial cases, and but few of these until later on. Judge Henry Ford, who succeeded Judge Hubbard was not only a fine lawyer, but was very much of a gentleman, and had an agreeable suavity of manner as a judge. When he called the docket at a term in Primghar, and read a certain case there, some lawyer from abroad in very solemn tones, asked the court for a continuance for defendant. Judge Ford stated to him, that it would be necessary to file an affidavit, showing the grounds of continuance, and asked the lawyer if his client could make an affidavit with grounds sufficient. Ah! your honor, said the grief-stricken attorney, my client is not here, he is there, (pointing above), he is dead. The judge then stated to the lawyer if such was the case, his court had lost jurisdiction, and perhaps it would be necessary for him to appear before some other tribunal. During the relief period, one

Luce was charged with the theft of some flour, which was stored in Baker township school house. A large amount had been shipped in, and the committee on relief used the school building in which to place it. About a wagon load of it disappeared under the darkness of night, and suspicion pointing towards Luce he was arrested. The writer was employed to defend him, and the statements he made to me, along with his honest face and church membership, impressed me that he was innocent, and a persecuted man. The evidence was only circumstantial, but still it was damaging, but not convincing, especially to the writer, who was sure that some other was the guilty party. Luce was acquitted, and went forth adjudged innocent of the crime. The next day he came around to settle up, and asked the writer if he would not take pay in some of that flour, as he had some of it on hand, but had little money. The reader may be sure he paid the money, for after all, the law was cheated out of the opportunity to punish a guilty man.



J. H. OATES.

At another time, the writer defended a young man charged with larceny, and there being not sufficient evidence to convict, he was discharged, and having no money turned over his watch, worth about \$5 as payment of the attorney fee. The writer received this in his office, and in the presence of the client laid it away in a drawer of a desk. Inside of an hour the watch was again in the pocket of the client, for the thief had actually stolen the watch from his attorney.

In 1879, some traveling man left his pocketbook in a cupola

of a caboose, on the Milwaukee road, after it reached Sanborn. He had been sitting there, and the pocketbook had worked out of his pocket and laid on the seat. The pocketbook contained \$100 and was found by a brakeman C. H. Lewis, who threw the pocketbook away, and placed the money in the lining of his hat. When the traveling man discovered his loss, complaint was made before a justice, a warrant issued and several of the train men searched, but the money not found, until Lewis was confronted with the charge of stealing it, which he confessed to, and turned the money over, taking it from under the hat lining. Lewis was bound over to the grand jury, and O'Brien county then having no jail, he was incarcerated in the Sioux county jail during the winter, and until the following March term of court.

At that term he was indicted, and having no money the writer was appointed by the court to defend him. That evening while we were taking a walk with Judge Lewis, the suggestion was made to him, that the boy having turned the money over, was a well behaved fellow with a mother to support, that the boy plead guilty and take a fine without an order of committal. The judge thought otherwise, he said that an employee of the railroad should guard strictly the property of a passenger, and instead of stealing, should restore it, and that in his opinion the boy should go to the penitentiary eighteen months.

The next morning while the writer and Charley Allen were in the court room, before the time of opening court, the boy Lewis came in with some books sent by the sheriff, Mart Shea. The writer had a talk with him, and is sure, and cannot possibly be mistaken, that he gave no intimation to the fellow, as to what he might expect, nor any suggestion as to what he had better do, but at any rate from an instinct of self preservation in all probability, the criminal was soon seen from the court house window striking across the prairie. When court opened, Mart Shea was looking for his prisoner, but he could not be found, and when the case was called for

trial, District Attorney Marsh had no one to either prosecute or convict. The writer was informed not long afterwards by Frank Tifft, that the boy came to his house in Primghar that night about 11 o'clock, just about famished, having laid in the tall grass during the hot day without either food or water. Frank gave the criminal a good square meal, and started him off towards Cherokee; he was never heard from afterwards.

Sometimes courts are severe, and there are cases where punishment should be light. This boy was not a thief by nature, and indeed after he found the money, he had carried it a day without using any of it, and when called upon, restored it all, and expressed regret.

He might have hid it, and denied the taking of it, and no proof could have been secured to convict him. Under such circumstances, eighteen months in the penitentiary would have been a strong sentence, although from the point of judicial determination, the sentence might have been justified.

John Connell, mentioned as one of the early lawyers of Sheldon, went out to defend a handsome young widow in Sioux county, and a reporter at the time published the following as a part of his speech:

Gentlemen:—You may hang the ocean on a grape vine, lasso an avalanche, pin a napkin to the mouth of a volcano, skim the clouds from the sky with a teaspoon, throw salt on the tail of the American eagle, whose sleepless eye watches over the welfare of our nation, but never for a moment delude yourselves with the idea, that this young widow is guilty of the charge preferred against her.”



W. H. BLOOM.

The reporter further said, that at this stage of Mr. Connell's eloquence, the court fainted, which caused much excitement, and an officer was sent to Hull, then Pattersonville, for a doctor, and in the meantime the fair widow escaped.

Along in the seventies, was formed the Independant School District of Sheldon, and included in this formation were sections 31 and 32, township 97, range 42 and section 1, township 96, range 43 in Sioux county. This independent district at once made a levy for taxes of 10 mills school house fund, 20 mills contingent fund and 35 mills teacher fund. Upon these taxes being certified to the county supervisors of Sioux county, the gentlemen composing the board held up their hands in holy horror at the idea, that O'Brien county should reach over, and gobble Sioux county land for the purpose of bleeding it with taxation. It did seem a little "cheeky" but it was legally right, for the Supreme Court so decided. The original attorneys for Sioux county were Edward Henn and Rufus Stone, both of whom have long since passed over the silent river. E. H. Hubbard of Sioux City was afterwards added as an attorney in the case, and Perkins and Barrett appeared for the Sheldon district. The attorneys on both sides joined somewhat in the bitterness of the controversy, were exceedingly facetious and did some sparring in their argument before the Supreme Court. The Sioux county attorneys pitched into the other side with this pointed language: "It is far better for plaintiff to lay hold of land in the well and honestly managed county of Sioux, where property is valuable and valuations high, rather than gather in the territory of its county, which has been notoriously a den of thieves for these many years, where the value of property has been taxed out of existence, and where the principal industry of the inhabitants consists in the grinding out of bogus warrants and fraudulent bonds." The plaintiff replied to this as follows: "Before presenting our own reasons why the judgment of the court below should be affirmed, we must deprecate the very unprofessional manner in which appellants go out of their way, to state that plaintiff's

county is one of thieving reputation and dishonest practices; for while this may have been its early history, a reminder of it comes with very ill grace from defendant, whose period of reform has been so recent, and so brief, that they may yet be considered in a condition of uncertainty and doubtful probation, and before they parade any particular virtues of their own, or condemn any vices of their neighbors, it would be well to exhibit some proof of practical honesty by levying this tax, rather than compel plaintiffs to resort to the courts, and make them do it, by force of law."

The real conflict in the case was between the Independent District of Sheldon, and the Independent District of Grant in Sioux county, both of which were making a race for existence and recognition. The Supreme Court held, that the Sheldon district was first in point of time, and this being so, the levy should have been made for that district, which the supervisors afterwards reluctantly did.

The case of Maud Straw excited considerable interest; and there was much indignant feeling, especially on the part of Sheldon's citizens.

Had there been undisputed evidence, pointing to the guilt of the assassin who committed the murder, the courts would have been relieved of the occasion of any long drawn out trial. Judge Lynch is a frontier tribunal, it is true, and before society had become fully organized, the desperate character who robbed, pillaged and murdered, could be dealt with in no



J. T. CONN.

other way than immediate excution upon a gallows, upon the nearest tree. But even in advanced society, when a cruel heinous crime has been committed, it is hard to restrain the people from taking the law into their own hands, when the real culprit is definitely known. Maud Straw was a school girl 18 years of age. She was without parents, left an orphan some years before. She lived with her brother-in-law who married Maud's sister, and these with the children of the sister living in a small house of one room in the city of Sheldon, constituted the household.

Maud was a hard working, ambitious scholar, she was above her surroundings in aim and ambition, and while she struggled against poverty and to keep herself sufficiently clad to mingle with her associates, she kept up a brave heart, and saw through the clouds of misfortune which seemed to surround her, a rift of sunshiny success. The coming time of graduation, her after life of teaching, and the opportunity of earning a respectable livelihood were constantly in her mind, and in these she lived, which gave a sort of a buoyancy of appearance, and apparently joyful life. She was also imbued with the highest principles of chastity and virtue, the priceless boon of a woman, and she scorned the life and the conduct of a wayward vixen, who would depart from these. In the month of February, 1896, while her brother-in-law and his family were visiting in the country, she lived alone in the house, and on the morning of the next day she was found partially nude, lying across the bed. Her limbs were rigid, and her body cold in the embrace of death; she was a corpse. How long she had laid there could not be definitely determined. A post mortem examination was had, by direction of a coroner's jury and was performed by Dr. W. H. Meyers and Dr. Milton Daily. It was found that she had been outraged, and the condition of the body indicated poison, and at all events it seemed to be conclusive that after the outrage, or before, she had been murdered.

No one can conceive the degraded and wicked character of

the heart of such a demon, who would rob an innocent girl of her virtue, and then take her life. Of the worst and vilest of all Gods creatures, characterized by the basest coinage of hell, there is not one more despicable than he who did the deed, and the writer fears that he will never be known, with the certainty of evidence to convict him, unless with his own expiring breath, he imparts the secret to the living. The coroner's jury was organized on Saturday, and continued in session until the Tuesday following. The writer was then county attorney, and being required to attend at the Sioux county district court the Monday and Tuesday following, requested the coroner's jury to remain in session, until the Wednesday following, and expressed the opinion, that as the grand jury would be in session in about thirty days, that it would be better to continue the secret investigation of a coroner's jury until that time, as developments could better be made in that way, than by a public preliminary before a justice.

But upon my return Wednesday morning, Justice Conant, who had become acting coroner in the place of the coroner, Dr. Perley, had issued a warrant for the arrest of certain parties, and had telegraphed to Sanborn to C. A. Babcock to come up, and take charge of the case. The writer expressed his feelings freely, both to Justice Conant and to Babcock for such a condition of affairs, but the farce had commenced, and I was powerless to prevent it. For an entire week the hearing progressed, and such a mass of contradictory testimony as was introduced on the part of the state, was a shocking exhibition of judicial stupidity. One of the arrested parties was



R. E. KEARNEY.

held to the grand jury, and when that body met, there was found to be not sufficient evidence to indict him, and who the murderer was, is still a mystery.

A contest case over a public office, the first in the county, was tried in Primghar in October, 1877, between S. C. Harris and T. J. Alexander, for the office of treasurer. It was claimed by Mr. Harris, that certain frauds and irregularities were used in some of the townships, which if left out, would be sufficient to defeat Mr. Alexander, who had been declared elected. The tribunal then consisted of a commission, one of its members being the chairman of the board of supervisors, and two others, one chosen by each of the contestants, who were W. E. Welch, chairman of the board; J. C. Elliot, chosen by Alexander, and B. F. McCormack by Mr. Harris. The attorneys were J. L. E. Peck and M. B. Davis of Sioux City for Alexander, and Charley Allen, Warren Walker and D. A. W. Perkins for S. C. Harris. It was certainly in some respects a dramatic scene, and there was considerable interest manifested. There was a large attendance from all over the county.

In Carroll township there were sixty-five votes cast in full, 51 for T. J. Alexander, 14 for S. Harris.

The judges had fixed up an old cigar box, by putting two or three tacks in the lid, and cutting a hole in it to put the tickets through, as a ballot box. At noon on the day of election, one of the judges took this primitive ballot box at his house with him when he went to dinner, about a mile and a half away, the other two judges went in an opposite direction about two miles away, all being gone an hour and a half. At 6 o'clock they went to supper, as they had gone at noon to dinner, but remaining this time about two hours. It was alleged at the time of the trial, that the election judge who took the ballot box, offered to bet upon his return from supper, that Harris did not have 17 votes in the box. It was also alleged at the trial, that when the judge returned with the ballot box, the lid was not fastened down, but was up

about a quarter of an inch. It was also alleged at the trial, that the votes cast, were every one for or against the nominees for treasurer. At the same time, one voter was ready to swear, that he did not vote for any one as county treasurer, and that he scratched the name out. There were about fifty voters from Carroll township who were willing to swear, that they voted for T. J. Alexander. The attorneys for Mr. Harris objected as a matter of law, to the admission of such evidence.

Frank Frisbie, the ever enthusiastic and irrepressible Frank, spoke right out in meeting, and declared, that Carroll township wanted everybody to understand, that they had brought a rope along, and would hang the first man who favored an injustice. One of the attorneys for Harris suggested, that the court had the right to protect itself from this kind of talk, as it was nothing more or less than a contempt of court. Another of the Alexander party came to the front, in a pugilistic attitude and said, "you had better try that little game if you think best, there are fifty men right here to back him up."

At this the whole delegation from Carroll township



R. A. CUSHMAN.

were murmuring, and were much excited. Some said, "tar and feather that lawyer," others, "put him out." For awhile everything was in great confusion, and there seemed to be nothing but trouble and perhaps bloodshed in store, but finally the lawyers on both sides, brought about peace and quietness. The court then adjourned until the 26th, and on that day ren-

dered their decision in favor of the Alexander party. It was more of a misunderstanding than anything else. The court was disposed to do what was right, and did so, by deciding that Mr. Alexander was legally elected treasurer.

LAWYERS.

The lawyers of the county are, at Hartley, W. P. Briggs and J. W. Walter. Mr. Walter has been clerk of court in the county, and is a conscientious fellow and a good lawyer. Mr. Briggs moved to Hartley from Sioux City, and has a good practice with ability to maintain it. Sanborn has three lawyers E. T. Langley, J. A. Wilcox and C. A. Babcock. Mr. Langley was in practice many years at Huron, S. D., is a popular lecturer and in his practice is actuated by only a desire that right shall prevail, and has a good knowledge of the law. Mr. Langley has his son associated with him. Mr. Wilcox has been in Sanborn about 10 years and has established a lucrative practice, and does a large collection business. As a lawyer he stands well in his profession.

Mr. Babcock is county attorney, and is a good lawyer with a large practice.

Sutherland has two attorneys, Geo. F. Colcord and C. F. McCormack. Mr. Colcord came to the county in 1872, first settled in Sheldon. He was justice of the peace for many years, and was popular as such, exercising good judgment, and giving honest decisions. He pursued the study of law afterwards, and has acquired quite a reputation in the county as a good lawyer. He was from Massachusetts, and as an old soldier carries the scars of the conflict. Mr. McCormack has not been in practice many years; he was a candidate for county attorney in 1896, run ahead of his ticket, but belonged to the wrong party for victory.

He is quite a student, and too conscientious to lead a client into difficulty.

The firm of Crow & Hunter composed of H. H. Crow and Hunter are the only lawyers in Paullina. Mr. Crow is else-

where mentioned as an able lawyer, and an honest man. Mr. Hunter has recently settled in Paullina from Sioux City.

Primghar has lawyers as follows: O. H. Montzheimer, P. R. Bailey, Peck, Arthurholt & Ingham and David Algyer.

Mr. Montzheimer is an energetic fellow, painstaking and bright, and knows a case well before he enters upon its trial. He is a good collector and a good lawyer.

Mr. Bailey has acquired considerable of a reputation as a public speaker, is in demand at G. A. R. gatherings, being an old soldier, and the sound of his voice is heard by the entire assembly. He spent a few years in Alabama, but his aggressive tactics in whatever he believes, caused some friction with the southern element, and upon his return he belabored them with a production called "Old Shady, or the Disappointed Yankee," written in Bailey's own peculiar style. He has a good practice, and tackles the opposition in the trial of cases with much force.

J. L. E. Peck came to Primghar at an early day, was auditor of the county, and has accumulated considerable property. He is a careful, reliable lawyer, and presents his views to the court and jury with much force and clearness.

W. W. Arthurholt attends more particularly to the office, as also does Mr. Ingham as an abstracter. These two gentlemen bought out the business of T. F. Ward, and opened up in Primghar several years ago, and later formed the partnership mentioned with Mr. Peck.

Mr. Algyer has been recently admitted, and has formed a partnership with T. F. Ward, of Le Mars. David has been



DR. J. M. LONG.

a justice of the peace in Primghar for many years, and his court has been alluded to as the "Supreme Court" by the lawyers, which is certainly complimentary to our learned friend, who is capable of many things which the future will develop.

Sheldon has quite an extensive bar, and as the city is near the corner of the county, their practice reaches into Sioux, Lyon and Osceola, as many residents of these counties make Sheldon their trading point.

The lawyers are: M. H. Allen, G. A. Gibson, G. T. Wellman, W. D. Boies, G. W. Roth, I. N. McIntire, Joe Morton, W. Webber, A. J. Waldsmith, John McCandless and D. A. W. Perkins.

Mr. Allen is entitled to considerable credit, as by his own exertions and hard study he has become one of the prominent lawyers in the northwest, and is sought for in important cases. He is bright, and full of force in the trial of cases, and the fellow on the other side must be sure that he has his case well in hand. We knew Milt when as a lad, he was a successful rider in the various horse races hereabout, and he exhibited the same ambition to win, that he does now when he tackles a law suit.

The firm of Boies & Roth has long been established at Sheldon, Mr. Boies having been previously located at Sanborn, who formed a partnership with Roth, after the latter had graduated from a law university. Mr. Roth is a good, clean lawyer, but more particularly looks after the office business of the firm, though he often takes a hand in the trial of cases. Mr. Boies has an extensive reputation as an able lawyer, and an eloquent advocate.

He was the candidate of his party for attorney general at the last election, is a shrewd attorney, with a good legal mind, and a large practice.

Mr. Wellman entered the practice with a good education behind him, and whenever he takes hold of a case, it gets thorough investigation, and all its points are well known and

understood. He is a hard student, and when he gets ready for the battle, he is well equipped, and his adversary is likely to wonder before he gets through, what hit him. Mr. Wellman is a good lawyer.

Mr. Gibson commenced practice in Sheldon about three years ago, and in that time has acquired quite a considerable amount of clientage.

He works hard over his cases, and tries a case with considerable force and skill.

I. N. McIntire makes somewhat of a specialty of collections and brings considerable many cases. He is a university student, and has been in the practice at Sheldon about ten years. Joe Morton studied with his father in



S. A. CARTER.

Sheldon, and afterwards graduated from the Iowa City university about two years ago. He is ambitious, and takes hold of a case with much vim and determination, and has the making of a successful advocate. He was elected city attorney, and has a good practice.

A. J. Waldsmith also graduated from the Iowa City university, and first opened an office in Sanborn, and afterwards formed a partnership with E. T. Langley, but about two years ago moved to Sheldon. He is quite a student-like fellow, with much literary taste, conscientious and careful in giving advice, and is a good lawyer.

C. H. Bullis, formerly a lawyer of Sheldon, died several years ago. He was a thoroughly educated man and an able lawyer.

O. M. Barrett was in practice in Sheldon many years, and moved to California some time ago. He was state senator two terms.

Judge Alfred Morton was a member of the O'Brien county bar nineteen years, and died in 1896. He was a gentleman by nature, of much affability of manner, and was sympathetic and kind of heart. He had a large practice in his palmy days, and was well versed in the principles of law.

Charley Allen was in practice here many years, but moved to Wyoming several years ago. He was sort of a matter of fact fellow, good on pleadings, had his reasons for everything, was a successful lawyer, and a thoroughly honest man.

D. C. Hayes was an early practitioner, in the county. B. F. McCormack was also admitted to the bar. J. B. Dunn practiced in the county and was county attorney two terms. Louis Vogt practiced at Sanborn but is now at George. Warren Walker is mentioned elsewhere. Charley McKenzie a legal genius, formerly at Sheldon, is now at Des Moines, in practice there. Frank Nash, a former Sheldon lawyer, is in Colorado, and his brother S. C. died a few years ago. John Connell, who also practiced in Sheldon, is now in Boyden. Young Ainsworth, a bright fellow, started in Sheldon in the eighties, and died here a few years after his location. Earl Brown graduated from a law university, was in practice for a while, forming a partnership with Milt Allen. His tastes however, seemed to lead him out of practice, into that of banking, which business he is now engaged in, being with his father in the Sheldon bank. T. F. Ward, an able lawyer at Primghar, is now at Le Mars. The writer commenced practice in Sheldon when the town started, and is still in practice there.

Lawyers as a class are broad in their make-up, and are free from personal bickerings. Of course there occasionally drifts into the profession some insignificant shyster, who breathes not the atmosphere of fellowship, nor knows not the significance of professional ethics, but the rule is, that we are

fraternally engaged in the analysis of a science, whose principles we apply to the controversies of men, for the settlement and adjustment of their differences.

M'GREGOR ROAD.

In 1877, there was an attempt on the part of the McGregor & Missouri R. R. Co., to divert the line in its course across O'Brien county, so that it would cross between Sheldon and Hospers. This road is now the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. The bill granting to this company its land, from McGregor in Iowa, should run westward, along, or near the 43d parallel of north latitude, and intersect the Sioux City & St. Paul R. R., now the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway, in O'Brien county. Our member of congress at that time introduced a bill, allowing the company to divert its line, which aroused the settlers who had taken claims with reference to this road, and Sheldon was particularly indignant. Meetings were held, and money raised to prevent this scheme on the part of our congressman, and it took considerable hard work to defeat it. It was defeated however, and the line was held on its original route. Hon. S. R. Harris, of Bucyrus, Ohio, a lawyer then in practice there, and of much ability, and prominent in his state, took a hand in the matter, and the work he did for us, never was fully known, but it saved us defeat. He had large land interests here, and visited us every summer in prairie chicken time, and was in full sympathy with



CHRISTIAN CHURCH, PRIMGHAR.

the settlers as much so, had he been one of our number, and he felt the injustice, that was in attempt to be perpetrated.

He secured the influence of several distinguished members of congress in our behalf, who defeated at once every move made by our congressman, until the matter was finally settled by the road being built on its original line. Mr. Harris is now a member of congress himself, from Ohio, having been elected a republican by a large majority, in a democratic district, which is proof that an intelligent constituency fully understand his worth as a man, and his ability as a statesman.

NEWSPAPERS.

There are in the county at the present time eleven newspapers, as follows: The Herald in Hartley, by Allen Crossan; the Journal by Claude Charles. In Sanborn the Sun, by B. F. McCormack, and the Pioneer by S. L. Sage. In Sutherland the Review, and the Courier by W. H. Bloom. In Paullina the Times, by F. M. Bethel. In Sheldon the Eagle by J. H. Oats, and the Mail by F. T. Piper. In Primghar the Democrat by H. B. Waite, and the Bell by J. H. Wolf. The first newspaper distributed in the county, and circulated as a county paper, was started in Old O'Brien in 1871, by J. R. Pumphrey, edited by B. F. McCormack, and was called the O'Brien County Pioneer. This paper was printed in Cherokee by Robert Buchanan, and its publication was continued until May 24, 1872, when L. B. Raymond established a printing office at Old O'Brien, so that the first newspaper publication printed in the county, was in that month and year. The first issue stated among other locals, that B. F. McCormack was busy breaking prairie, that Geo. Youde had completed an addition to Pumphrey's residence. It also stated then upon good authority the editor was informed, that settlers were going into the northwest part of the county. The June number, 1872, informed the people, that Capt. Tiff had in 159 acres of small grain, 40 acres of corn, and 4 acres of potatoes. Also that he broke on his own claim in 1871, 100 acres.

The first issue printed in the county appeared May 24, 1872, which was continued by Mr. Raymond until November 15, 1872, when the paper was purchased by A. H. Willits, and the first number under his administration was of that date. Mr. Willits, continued its publication under his own name until September, 1873, when C. W. Inman purchased a half interest, and the management of the paper was by Willits & Inman. This firm continued about a year when Mr. Inman retired, and A. G. Willits, son of A. H. succeeded him, and the paper was then published by A. H. Willits & Son.

In April, 1879, Warren Walker purchased the interest of the elder Willits, and the firm of Walker & Willits continued its publication until the plant was purchased by its present owner, J. H. Wolf. This paper has followed up the advancing population of the county; first published at old O'Brien, then when the county seat was moved to Primghar, the paper followed, and not long after Sanborn started, the paper was moved there, which was in November, 1880. It has been a strong paper, and its editor, J. H. Wolf, a forcible and conscientious writer. The paper has established itself firmly with the people, is republican in politics and has a large circulation.

The next paper started in the county was the Sheldon Mail, the first issue of which is dated January 1, 1873. The paper was started by L. B. Raymond, whose name appears as its proprietor, and D. A. W. Perkins, editor. In the spring of 1873, Mr. Perkins purchased the paper of Mr. Raymond.



RESIDENCE OF C. H. WESTFALL, HARTLEY.

Frank T. Piper took charge of the paper in August, 1872, as foreman, and from the writer's recollection, Mr. Piper was also "devil" and all hands. He continued with the paper until it was purchased by John F. Glover in the fall of 1874, and remained with Mr. Glover for awhile, until he went away to attend school. Mr. Glover changed the name to Sheldon Republic, and continued with the paper until August 13, 1875, when Frank T. Piper became again connected with the paper, as editor and proprietor by purchase from Mr. Glover. Mr. Piper at once went back to his first love the "Mail" and changed to that, from Republic. The Sheldon Mail has become one of the fixtures of northwest Iowa. Its early establishment and continued publication, as well as good management for so many years, has settled its permanency and given it a substantial reputation. It has a large circulation, and much credit is due to Mr. Piper, who has for a quarter century, in season and out of season, and at all time battled for the advancement and the good name of Sheldon, of O'Brien county, and of northwest Iowa. It has also during this time been republican, and has vigorously maintained the principles of its party in politics, and whenever the party ticket has been put in the field, Mr. Piper has stood by it unflinchingly, though at times some nominee was distasteful to him, and his continued advocacy of some candidate, has often resulted in a return of base ingratitude.

The first paper started in Hartley was the Record, in June, 1884, by F. E. Cole, who was a bright editor, and a good printer. Cole run the paper fourteen months, when he leased it to Allen Crossan for one year, at the end of which time, Mr. Crossan purchased it. After he had run it four years, he sold it back to Mr. Cole. Cole then sold a half interest to Will Dunn, and in 1891, C. H. Crawford took charge of it, and continued with it until 1894, when the present proprietor, Claude Charles took charge of it. He changed the name to the Journal. The paper is well conducted, and under good management.

A second paper was established in Hartley in 1895, called the Hartley News by G. R. Gregg. This enterprise was a failure, and ended its existence in ninety days. In July, 1896, Allen Crossan bought the News plant or rather the material, and started a new paper, the Hartley Herald. The paper is independent in politics, and shows much enterprise on the part of its publisher.

The Paullina Times was started in 1872, by G. G. Bundy, which was continued by him until August 9, 1883, when for a few issues towards the close of Bundy's administration, it was published by Bundy & Thomas. Bundy sold to Oscar D. Hamstreet, whose first issue was September 6, 1883. Mr. Hamstreet continued the publication of the paper until January 5, 1893, when the present proprietor, Frank M. Bethel, purchased the plant, and became its editor and manager. The paper at all times has been well conducted; Bundy was an aggressive fellow, and sort of kept himself in hot water, but after all there is such a thing as a newspaper being too tame. Hamstreet



RESIDENCE OF J. L. TAYLOR, HARTLEY.

was a spicy, pointed writer, and quite a news gatherer. Under the present management the paper is well conducted, and is thrifty and prosperous. Frank M. Bethel is a young man, active and energetic, and quite an agreeable and social fellow. He is a pungent, fearless writer, says what he believes, and gives the news of the day, with unsparing hand.

The Sutherland Courier was started in 1882, by Harvey

Hand, who sold it to C. H. Brintnall, afterwards to Bert Hamilton, and he sold to the present proprietor, W. H. Bloom. Mr. Bloom is a mild writer, he keeps in touch with the town and runs a good local paper.

The Sutherland Review was started a few years ago, and has had several different editors, still it seems to maintain its position as a creditable local paper.

The Sheldon Eagle has had many different proprietors, and changes in politics. Under the present management by J. H. Oats, it is in better shape than it has ever been, and it is now recognized as a very creditable and newsy paper. It is democratic in politics.

The Primghar Democrat was brought into existence, before the last presidential campaign, as an expounder of the democratic faith, and still sticks to the political text. It is in charge of H. B. Waite, whose ready pen, gently tells the local news, and that a protective tariff will be the ruin of the country.

The Primghar Bell is now under the immediate control of J. H. Wolf who has recently moved to Primghar. The Bell has established itself as a strong county paper, filled with correspondence from other points in the county, and plenty of local news. It has been run by Fred and Will Wolf with the aid of their father J. H. The paper was started by F. M. McCormack, who is at times when the spirit moves him, quite a forcible writer. He now publishes a paper at Claremont, Minnesota.

The Sanborn Sun, is the present outcome of a paper started several years ago, and has passed through several different hands. It is now run by B. F. McCormack who has his own way of entertaining his readers each week, and he talks right out in meeting, and says what he likes.

His style is spicy and his articles forcibly and well written. At one time Ira Brasheers had a paper at Sanborn which was sold with the mortgage on it to other parties, and with the material there was started the Sanborn Cycle. This paper wrestled with difficulties in and out of the office for awhile,

when it was suspended. John Whiting had a paper for awhile at Sheldon, and which finally became an attempted agricultural paper, but at last surrendered.

W. H. Noyes also started in Sheldon the "Iowa State Gazette" which struggled along for awhile and at last the material was moved to Belmont, Minnesota, where it is now used in the publication of a paper there.

The Sanborn Pioneer has been leased to S. L. Sage with a contract as to its purchase. Mr. Sage has considerable celebrity as a newspaper man, and will no doubt keep up the standard of the paper, adding to it his own journalistic experience.

G. A. R.

O'Brien county has many old soldiers, most of whom are members of the Grand Army of the Republic, though some have never identified themselves with any post. This immense organization is national, and scattered over the country are the different posts.

The old soldiers are constantly dropping from the ranks, and though they faced the missiles of war, and many came out of the conflict without a scar, they must surrender to the grim reaper.

We have endeavored to get the names of all the old soldiers in the county, but still, some names will be missed. At Paullina there was a post, but some time ago disbanded, and we were unable to find the list.

There are many letters and papers preserved, as a part of



RESIDENCE OF FRANK PATCH, HARTLEY.

the civil war, but very few letters of private correspondence, which if they had been preserved would be very valuable, and somewhat of a curiosity, especially when the parties connected with them, have advanced from the boy life of a soldier, to active business men. The following letter has fallen under the writer's observation, which was written by D. M. Sheldon's captain to Mr. Sheldon's mother:

CAMP 74TH REGT. ILL. VOLS., }
UNIEINGS STATIONS, GA., }
July 6th, 1864. }

MRS. HARRIET SHELDON:

Dear Madam:—It becomes my duty to inform you, that your son, D. M. Sheldon, of my company, was wounded in the face by a musket ball, while taking a brave and gallant part with his company in a skirmish with the enemy some five miles south of Marietta, Ga., on the 4th of July, 1864. The surgeon thinks his wound is not dangerous at all. He is being sent back where he will receive good care. Daniel is a brave and good soldier, brave *to a fault*, and I hope you will see him home soon, and that he may be able to join us again soon, and help us finish up this wicked rebellion, and return to you a sound man yet.

Very truly your obedient servant

CAPT. A. M. BLAKELEY,

Commdr. Co. E. 74th Ill.

The names of the members of the different posts, as far as we were able to ascertain are as follows:

SANBORN KENYON POST NO. 449.

The G. A. R. post at Sanborn was organized June 27, 1884, with thirty-six members. The following are the list at the present time:

Warren Walker, Co. H, 141st Illinois Infantry.

Harley Day, Co. K, 106th New York Infantry.

J. I. Perry, Co. D, 1st Wisconsin Infantry.

Jacob H. Wolf, Co. H, 46th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Wilbur F. Mills, Co. I, 22d Iowa Infantry.
Martin Finley, Co. F, 8th Wisconsin Infantry.
Hugh E. Correll, Co. K, 15th New York Infantry.
Edward R. Wood, Co. C, 2d Wisconsin Cavalry.
Chancy F. Owen, 3d Iowa Battery.
Isaac Daniels, Co. I, 50th Pennsylvania Infantry.
Thomas F. Allen, Co. D, 20th Iowa Infantry.
Claudius Tifft, Co. H, 23d Kentucky Infantry.
Richard M. Boyd, Co. H, 14th Iowa Infantry.
John W. Kelley, Co. D, 90th Illinois Infantry.
William H. Woodman, 22d Wisconsin Infantry.
Thomas T. Shaffner, Co. B, 87th Indiana Infantry.
Charles Merwin, Co. C, 42d Illinois Infantry.
Joseph M. Vincent, Co. C, 45th Illinois Infantry.
Israel Free, Co. G, 126th Illinois Infantry.
William DeWitt, Co. B, 91st Ohio Infantry.
Henry Prime, Co. L, 3d Wisconsin Cavalry.
James F. Sisson, Co. K, 27th Wisconsin Infantry.
John W. Todd, Co. C.
Charles Moon, Co. E, 11th Illinois Cavalry.
W. W. Johnson, Co. A, 22d Iowa Infantry.
M. C. Wilkins, Co. C, 7th Iowa.
George Hakeman, Co. C, 24th Iowa Infantry.
John V. Dergin, Co. K, 24th Wisconsin Infantry.
William Bonner, Co. C, 50th Wisconsin Infantry.

HARTLEY POST NO. 451.

W. H. Eaton, corporal Co. G, 21st Wisconsin Infantry.
J. M. Yeoman, private Co. D, 91st Illinois Infantry.
L. Miller, private Co. D, 4th Wisconsin Cavalry.
E. B. Messer, lieutenant colonel, 156th Illinois Infantry.
S. Boyce, private Co. H, U. S. Infantry.
W. A. Compton, private Co. A, 190th Pennsylvania.
John E. Holford, private Co. E, 91st Illinois Infantry.
B. C. Bouten, private Co. K, 22d Wisconsin Infantry.
W. S. Fuller, sergeant, 17th Illinois Cavalry.
A. McDonald, corporal Co. B, 8th Iowa Infantry.

J. S. Webster, private Co. B, 154th Illinois Infantry.
R. W. Ayers, sergeant Co. G, 25th Illinois.
Clark Robinson, Co. D, Minnesota Artillery.
C. Hopfe, private Co. C, 8th Iowa Infantry.
James Stuce, private Co. C, 4th U. S. Cavalry.
O. M. Whitman, private Co. A, 8th Wisconsin Infantry.
W. H. Bevinham, private Co. D, 40th Illinois Infantry.
F. Kelly, private Co. G, 43d Infantry Musician.
Abraham DeLong, private Co. G., 23d Michigan.
J. E. Richards, private Co. A, 2d New York Artillery.
W. A. Elliott, private Co. E, 92d Illinois Infantry.
Geo. Nickedemus, private Co. K, 15th Illinois Infantry.

PRIMGAR POST.

Chas. F. Albright, private Co. C, 2d Iowa Infantry.
Henry Goodman, corporal Co. I, 5th Wisconsin Infantry.
Adolphus V. Conoway, private Co. B, 134th Illinois Infantry.
S. E. Carmichael, private Co. K, 34th Iowa Infantry.
Dewit C. Chapman, private Co. I, 2d Iowa Cavalry.
William Oliver, private 101st Indiana Infantry.
Isaac L. Rerick, 1st corporal Co. E, 14th Iowa Infantry.
Isaac Clements, corporal Co. H, 16th Iowa Infantry.
Geo. W. Schee, private Co. C, 33d Regiment Iowa.
Thos. A. Stewart, corporal Co. G, 7th V. R. C.
Charles Moon, private Co. E, 11th Illinois Cavalry.
James Morton, private Co. C, 88th Indiana, V. I.
Charles O. Cookinham, private Co. F, 117th New York.
Geo. H. Cook, private Co. E, 105th Illinois.
F. A. Gere, private Co. A, 153d Illinois.
C. H. Slocum, private Co. A, 34th Illinois Infantry.
S. A. Carter, private Co. K, 27th Iowa.
Wm. J. Stewart, private Co. L, 9th Iowa Cavalry.
Jasper N. Marsh, private Co. C, 92d Illinois.
Al. Waterman, private Co. H, 47th Illinois.
David Algyer, private Co. A, 115th New York.
Oscar McElwain, private Co. I, 28th Ohio.
P. R. Bailey, corporal Co. A, 118th Ohio Infantry.

L. P. Vance, captain Co. B, 35th Missouri Infantry.
Elias Holt, private Co. I, N. E. Cavalry.
A. M. Cleghorn, private Co. A, 22d Iowa.
J. C. Hillyer, private Co. D, B. B. Cavalry.

SHELDON M'KENZIE NO. 72.

T. J. Lett, corporal Co. F, 8th Illinois-Cavalry.
Jas. W. Taylor, private Co. K, 1st Nebraska Cavalry.
J. A. Glenn, private Co. B, 100th Pennsylvania.
G. H. Klock, corporal Co. A, 9th Iowa.
P. A. Edington, sergeant Co. H, 90th Ohio.
J. O. Lias, private Co. H, 5th Iowa Cavalry.
J. W. Lee, corporal Co. A, 8th Illinois Cavalry.
Warren J. Woods, private Co. C, 7th Wisconsin.
R. E. Osborne, musician Co. K, 76th Ohio.
H. A. Scott, sergeant Co. A, 58th Illinois.
John Deacon, hospital St., Co. A, 1st Wisconsin.
Geo. W. Davis, corporal Co. A, 4th Iowa Cavalry.
F. E. Wyman.
John W. Lias, private Co. M, 2d Iowa Cavalry.
W. H. Dummett, corporal Co. H, 6th Iowa Cavalry.
Pahner Crampton, corporal Co. F, 26th Iowa.
E. M. Young, private Co. H, 23d Iowa.
J. C. Wilmuth, private Co. G, 99th Ohio.
W. N. Strong.
Fred Guthrie, private Co. E, 53d Pennsylvania.
J. C. Van Campen, private.
John Woodward, private Co. C, 97th New York.
W. H. Dorward, private Co. E, 29th Wisconsin.
A. G. Canfield, private Co. C, 177th Ohio.
Johnathan Richardson, Co. I, 19th Wisconsin.
William H. Riley, private Co. C, 35th Illinois.
Daniel Moffit, private Co. A, 2d Iowa Cavalry.
Wm. Stratten, private Co. D, 122d Illinois.
Wm. H. Knepper, private Co. C, 34th Illinois Infantry.
Enoch Philby, private Co. I, 4th Indiana Cavalry.
James Thomas, private Co. I, 25th Michigan.

John M. Hayes, private Co. E, 105th Illinois.
W. J. Anderson, first lieut. Co. F, 1st N. Y. Light Artillery.
James Wykoff, private Co. L, 50th New York Eng.
Ed. C. Brown, sergeant Co. C, 3d Michigan.
E. F. Parkhurst, private Co. A, 74th Illinois.
Eugene Riddell, private Co. E, 141st Illinois.
James Roberts, private Co. C, 84th Ohio.
C. E. Andrews, private Co. K, 141st Illinois.
C. H. Smith, private Co. B, 52d Wisconsin.
L. D. Marshal, private Co. E, 23d Iowa.
James M. Lewis, sergeant 7th Iowa Cavalry.
E. A. Ward, private Co. G, 24th Iowa Infantry.
William Lyle, private Co. B, 93d New York.
Robert Martin, corporal 5th Battery, Pennsylvania Artillery.
William J. Wiley, private Co. I, 1st Ohio Cavalry.
George Arend, private Co. G, 2d Illinois Artillery.
George Lyle, private Co. L, 2d New York Cavalry.
Geo. A. Greenfield.
Gladney Ewers, private Co. A, 67th Ohio.
W. W. Waters, private Co. D, 111th New York.
W. B. Bowne, private Co. D, 23d New Jersey.
Henry M. Crocker, corporal Co. I, 84th O. V. J.
H. C. Lane, first sergeant Co. E, 128th Illinois.
M. B. Darnell.
James Marston, private Co. E, 41st Wisconsin.
George Mennig, private Co. B, 2d Iowa Infantry.
D. W. Buell, private Co. M, 1st California Cavalry.
Byron Donovan, private Co. C, 34th Massachusetts.
George Patterson, private Co. A, 51st Ohio.
George Bryan, private Co. C, 208th Pennsylvania.
D. G. Eldridge, first lieutenant Co. F, 149th Illinois.
John Wood, private Co. A, 40th Wisconsin.
William Hecker, Jr. private Co. H, 1st New Jersey.
F. Tuffrey, private Co. H, 13th Iowa Infantry.
J. W. Hicks, private Co. E, 42d Wisconsin.
A. S. Powers, private 124th Ohio.

Milt Gillispie, private Co. G, 20th Iowa.
J. Rider, private Co. K, 14th Illinois.
D. Moos, private Co. B, 104th Illinois.
W. W. Beebe, private Co. B, 113th Illinois.
Wm. H. Riley, private Co. C, 35th Illinois.
J. D. Billings, private Co. H, 9th Indiana.
George W. Wilsey, private Co. H, 5th Wisconsin.
Conrad Moeller, private Co. C, 5th Iowa.
Wm. H. Moore, corporal Co. A, 37th Wisconsin.
J. E. Markham, private Co. E, 44th Wisconsin.
D. B. Judd, corporal Co. E, 128th Ohio.
Andrew Hunt, private Co. G, 38th New York.
Abe Appleton, private Co. B, 167th Ohio.
E. P. Messer, quarter master 37th Illinois.
A. L. Burnell, first sergeant Co. B, 2d Illinois Cavalry.
David Heastad, private Co. B, 12th Ohio Cavalry.
D. K. Vrooman, private Co. E, 49th Wisconsin.
E. Y. Royce, private 8th Wisconsin Battery.
J. F. Bishop, first lieutenant Co. B, 5th Minnesota.
Horace Wellman, private Co. M, 3d New York.
C. W. Toothaker, private Co. M, 4th Iowa Cavalry.
H. H. Winters.

SUTHERLAND, E. O. C. ORD POST.

R. M. Van Horn, private when discharged.
Joseph Cowan, private when discharged.
J. H. Reagan, private when discharged.
E. M. McOmber, private when discharged.
George W. Nelson, private when discharged.
R. M. Cleghorn, private when discharged.
G. F. Colcord, private when discharged.
John H. Peck, private when discharged.
J. M. Snider, private when discharged.
Charles Peaker, private when discharged.
F. L. Bidwell, private when discharged.
Wm. Virgill, private when discharged.
D. B. Harmon, private when discharged.

- L. T. Gates, private when discharged.
- D. H. Lemburg, private when discharged.
- N. Renville, private when discharged.
- J. Renville, private when discharged.
- E. W. Parker, private when discharged.
- James Parks, private when discharged.
- James Dewey, private when discharged.
- D. W. Pratt, private when discharged.
- D. M. Sheldon, private when discharged.
- George W. Haye, private when discharged.
- Charles M. Short, private when discharged.
- John H. Stock, private when discharged.

CHAPTER XV.

EDUCATIONAL.

If there is one thing more than another, in which the state of Iowa feels a just pride, it is its system of education, and O'Brien county is not behind any other, in its desire to have the best of schools.

If any boy or girl living in the county, grows up to manhood or womanhood, without a good common school education, the fault must be charged to the child or the parents, and not to any lack of opportunity.

The bureau of education at Washington has stated the fact to be, that Iowa has the smallest per cent of illiteracy, of any state in the union. Up to 1870 the school system of the county was in a loose way, in keeping with other affairs.

The office of county superintendent was simply nominal, until the election of Stephen Harris, who took much interest in the schools, and from that time on, the office of superintendent became one of much importance, and since then has been admirably filled. The present superintendent, Ella Seckerson, has taken much interest in the schools of the county, and under her administration, they have materially advanced.



MISS ELLA SECKERSON.

In 1887, the county had 102 school houses, which were located as follows: Baker, eight; Center, eight; Carroll, seven; Caledonia, six; Dale, four; Floyd, eight; Franklin, six; Grant, eight; Highland, seven; Hartley, four; Liberty, eight; Lincoln, one; Omega, four; Summit, four; Union, five; and Waterman, eight. Of the Independent School Districts, Sanborn had two school houses, and Primghar, Paullina, Sheldon and Sutherland each, had one. County Superintendent Algier in that year, 1887, carefully estimated the value of



SHELDON SCHOOL BOARD, 1893.

school property to be \$65,000, which was an increase of valuation of \$37,880, from 1879. In 1886, there was expended by the county for all school purposes, the sum of \$52,462.35, which was an increase of \$31,653.58 compared with 1879. In 1886 there were 3,242 persons of school age.

In the county at present there are one hundred and thirty-six school houses, distributed as follows: Floyd, eight; Car-

roll, eight; Baker, nine; Caledonia, nine; Franklin, five; Summit, six; Dale, nine; Union, six; Lincoln, eight; Center, nine; Highland, nine; Liberty, eight; Hartley, seven; Omega, nine; Grant, nine; Waterman, eight. These are outside of the independent districts. The independent districts are as follows: Sanborn, Hartley, Sheldon, Sutherland, Paullina, Primghar. These have pupils as follows: Sanborn, three hundred and eighty-six; Hartley, two hundred and sixty-nine; Sheldon, seven hundred and forty-six; Sutherland, two hundred and thirty-one; Paullina, two hundred and twenty-five; Primghar, two hundred and seventy-seven.

The school townships have pupils as follows: Baker, one hundred and ninety-nine; Caledonia, one hundred and twenty-seven; Franklin, ninety-one; Summit, one hundred and four; Dale, one hundred and thirty-three; Union, one hundred and thirteen; Lincoln, one hundred and forty-one; Center, one hundred and seventy-seven; Highland, one hundred and ninety-one; Liberty, one hundred and sixty-eight; Hartley, one hundred and forty-four; Omega, one hundred and sixty-nine; Grant, two hundred and twenty-two; Waterman, one hundred and thirty-two. This makes the entire number of pupils enrolled in the county four thousand five hundred and eighty-five.

The school property of the county is now valued at one hundred and forty-three thousand eight hundred and one dollars, and the amount expended for school purposes including everything in 1896 was eighty-eight thousand seven hundred and three dollars and fifty-six cents.

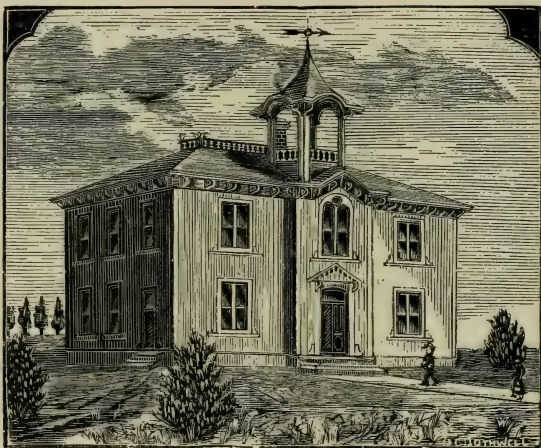


PROF. W. S. WILSON.

Values are as follows:

School houses	\$137,744
Apparatus	6,057
Total	\$143,801

There are now school houses in the independent districts as follows: Sanborn, two; Primghar, two; Paullina, two; Sheldon, one; Hartley, one; Sutherland, one. The Sheldon school house is the best in the county, a picture of which will be found in this book. It was built in 1894 and it's well enough to further describe it as follows:



FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING, SHELDON.

The perspective view of south and west gives a fairly good idea of the appearance of the building, which is 128 feet long from east to west and 100 feet wide from north to south. The basement is occupied by heating furnaces, closets, etc., supplied by the Smead Heating and Ventilating company, and we have every reason to believe that the system will work satisfactory.

The ground floor consists of seven school, and one recitation rooms, and office for the use of the superintendent and board. As will be seen from elevations, the entrance halls are spacious, and the stair cases which go midway between the stories up to commodious landings, and then turn to the corridors of the second floor, are elegant and convenient. The accommodations on the second floor, consist of seven school and one recitation rooms. The principal room on this floor is occupied by the high school, and can accommodate 130 pupils.

The superficial area of school and class room approaches 14,000 feet; the cubical contents of same, 166,000 feet. We ought not to omit mention that a spacious dining room is fit-



FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING IN SHELDON WITH ADDITIONS.

ted up in the basement, for the accommodation of such pupils who bring their mid-day dinner along with them. The square tower forming the south entrance is 80 feet high, and at all times when school is in session, the national flag may be seen floating over the same, over 100 feet above the street level.

All foundations are put in with Sioux Falls rock on a bed of concrete. All exterior brick work is executed with hydraulic pressed bricks, set in white mortar, supplied by the Hydraulic Pressed Brick Company of Omaha. All the roofs are covered with the best blue Pennsylvania slates. All joiner's work was executed by Messrs. Smith & Wyman, of Minneapolis, and it is only justice to this firm to say that their work was completed in a first-class manner. The hardware was supplied by E. P. Messer, of this city, and the painting, hard oil finish,



SHELDON SCHOOL BUILDING.

etc., was satisfactorily executed by F. C. Steel. In fact the work in its entirety was done in a commendable manner by the Mather Brick company, under personal superintendence of I. N. Flanagan, their contract superintendent. The new furniture was supplied by the Manitouwoc Furniture Company. The blackboards are of natural slate, supplied by E. D.



SHELDON SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PROFESSOR.

Beighley & Co., of Dayton, Ohio, the material throughout being without blemish, and the setting executed in such a manner, as to be pronounced the best work ever seen by educators who have visited schools all through the states.

It may be of interest to our readers to know the cost of the building, furniture, etc., complete, which, by the kindness of the board, we are able to annex:

Builder's contract	\$ 26,207 00
Account of extras.....	2,159 50
Architects account for plans.....	500 00
Salary of Superintendent of Construction.....	457 50
Heating and Ventilating contract.....	3,100 00
Shades to windows.....	147 50
Seats, desks, tables, etc.....	729 00
Natural slate blackboards, moulding, oilings, settings, etc.....	885 00
Total cost of building and fitting.....	\$ 34,185 50
Less amount received from sale of old school buildings.....	1,225 00
Total net cost of new building and furnishings.....	\$ 32,960 50

Last, but not least, it should be placed on record that the board which has erected a monument to its public spirit is composed of W. H. Myers, president; Ed. C. Brown, H. B. Wyman, R. H. Martin, E. P. Messer and John Bowley."



PROF. W. I. SIMPSON.

Prof. W. S. Wilson, now principal of the public schools at Rock Rapids, had charge of the Sheldon school for twelve years. His strong individuality, and remarkable proficiency as a public instructor, were impressed on the pupils, and the school, so that in the time he was here, he brought about a wonderful advancement in all departments.

As a citizen he commanded the highest respect, and left the city with the good will of the entire community. His successor was the present principal, Prof. W. I. Simpson. Mr.

Simpson continues the work with universal approval, and as an instructor and in charge of the various school departments, shows much tact and efficiency. He is an educated gentleman, of much culture and has been admitted to the bar. His assistants, filling the various departments of instruction, are recognized as teachers possessing the highest qualifications.

SANBORN.

The town of Sanborn has reason to feel a just pride in its school facilities. From the first school house built in 1881, and through the building of several since then, the district now has one of much beauty and extensive proportions. From the Sanborn Pioneer we note a detailed description.

"The independent district was organized in 1881; by a vote of the people, the territory embraced being five miles square, or twenty-five sections—twelve in Franklin township, eight in Summit, three in Lincoln and two in Center. Since that time, sections and parts of sections have been restored to the several townships from which taken, until only about fifteen or sixteen remain.

"I. W. Daggett, M. D. Comes and A. S. Fitzgerald were the first directors elected. M. D. Comes was elected president, J. W. Kelly secretary, and J. A. Stocum treasurer. This first meeting was held April 19, 1881, the members of the board being sworn in by E. Smith, justice of the peace. The treasurer was appointed at the second meeting, held May 3.

"One of the first bills allowed was for corn, for fuel. The first school house built in the independent district was built in 1881. Bids were opened July 16. Nine bids were received, ranging from \$2,995 up to \$4,628. The lowest bid was by



MRS. EMMA FREEMAN.

George E. Berry, of Sheldon, who was awarded the contract at \$2,995, and gave bonds in the sum of \$3,000 for faithful performance of contract. Bonds to the amount of \$3,500 were sold.

"The present school site was selected October 13, 1881.

"The house built in 1881 contained four rooms, was two stories high, and is the same building now owned by H. Telkamp, and being at this time fitted up for an opera house. It served the district from that time till the present one was built, but was often repaired and once enlarged by having a two-room addition built thereto. The addition was built by D. Moody some five or six years ago, and is now owned and used by C. A. Foote as a residence, having been bought by him last year and moved to his residence lots.

"For more than a year before the work of erecting the present house was begun, the board had the matter under advisement. It seemed like a big undertaking, and there was some opposition thereto, but it was finally agreed that the house should be built, and it was ordered at the meeting held January 25, just one year from the date of the writing of this article, that bids should be advertised for, said bids to be opened March 14, 1896. Plans and specifications prepared by the architect, F. W. Kenney, Austin, Minnesota.

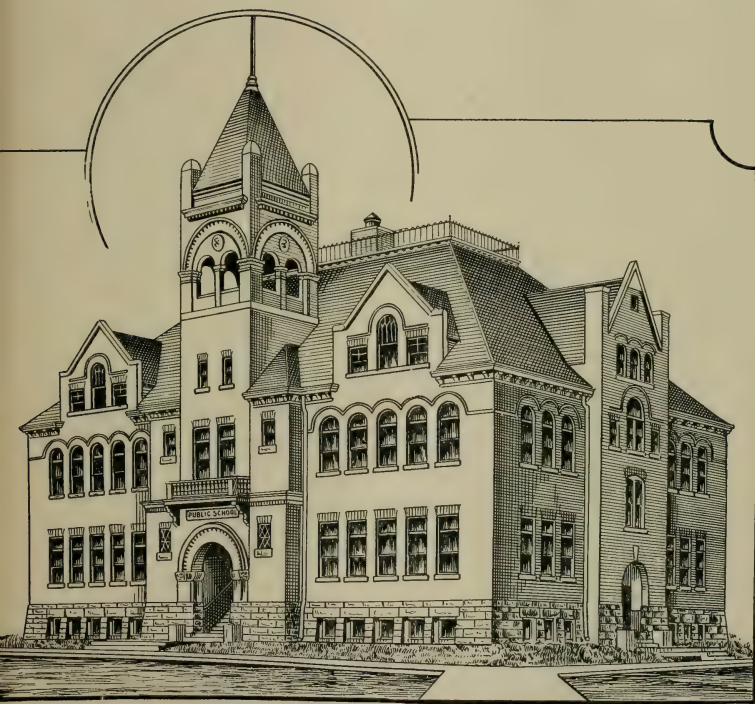


MISS MAME BUTTON.

"There were eleven bids received, ranging from \$13,400 to \$16,996.64.

"On April 25 the contract was awarded to D. Moody, of Sanborn, for \$13,900.

"Bonds to the amount of \$11,000 were voted by the people at different times and were sold, the proceeds being devoted to the erection of the new school house.



SANBORN SCHOOL BUILDING.

"Active work was begun in a short time, the basement excavated, stone, brick, lumber, etc., delivered, and in the latter part of June the foundations were laid and basement walls put up, and in July the brick work was started. There was some delay in getting proper material, and some changes made, causing still further delay.

"The contract called for the completion of the building by the 5th of September, but it was soon found it would be impossible, or at least impracticable, to have it done by that time. Some material was delayed on the way, some plastering was defective and had to be gone over, and the building was not ready, and school did not begin till October 19.

"Mankato stone and Sioux City brick were used, the red brick and buff colored stone trimmings making a beautiful contrast.

"The building is two stories high, with full basement, and architecturally beautiful and imposing as shown by the cut.



MISS KATE M'KEEVER.

The basement is used for the heating plant, fuel-room, play-rooms, etc. The heating plant was put in by the Windsor Heating Company, of Galena, Ill., the contract price being \$3,500. The system is what is called the direct and indirect, or indirect direct. Steam radiators are in all the halls, and rooms. In the school rooms the radiators are placed about seven feet above the floor. Ventilation and additional warmth are secured by hot air from a room in the basement, the air being warm-

ed to about 110 degrees. This air is from the outside before it is heated, and, of course, pure. By forcing this warm air into the rooms, the cold and impure air is forced to the floor, drawn off, and passes out and up the smoke stack. This insures constant and perfect ventilation, a thing of vital importance in the schoolroom, always.

"The heating plant has had a severe test the past week, It takes good appliances and careful handling these days with the wind blowing hard and the temperature twenty to thirty degrees below zero, to keep so large a building comfortably warm all over. Mr. W. F. Mills, the janitor, informs us that these days it takes about a ton of Iowa coal every twenty-four hours.

"There are four school rooms on each floor. The room on the first floor, southeast corner, is occupied by the first primary department, taught by Miss Anna J. Wientz. Enrollment, fifty-two.

"In the northeast corner is the second primary, taught by Miss Alice Hawk. Forty-four pupils enrolled in this department.

"The first intermediate, with thirty-seven enrolled, and with Miss Alma Magee teacher, is in the northwest corner.

"The southwest corner room is occupied by the second intermediate, thirty-three enrolled, and Miss Minnie Gardner teacher.

"The principal's office is located at the west end of the hall, and between rooms three and four.

"Ascending the broad, easy and handsome stairway to the second floor, we find in the northeast corner, room No. 5, or the third intermediate grade with Miss Lydia Skyles teacher and 33 enrolled.

"The recitation room for the high school is next the fifth room, on the north of the hall, that is, between the fifth and sixth rooms. This is a fine large recitation room, seated with high backed chairs with bookrests.

"Next this recitation room, and in the north-west corner, is the grammar grade, in which 57 are enrolled, with Miss Emily S. Lennon teacher.



LULU SHAFFER.

"The seventh grade or room is located in the south-east corner. There are 50 pupils enrolled in this department, and Miss Carrie Macey, the second assistant principal, is the teacher.

"In the south-west corner of the second floor is the high school department, the most commodious room in the building. Miss Esma B. Gault, the first assistant principal presides here.

"Between the two rooms last named is located the library room. There are nice cases in this room, and more than 200 books. When the \$300 now in the library fund are expended, the school will have the finest library in the county.

"Each school room has a large, well-finished cloak room, and each cloak room has a separate closet for the teacher to keep extra books, etc.

"The attic story is not yet completed. Here will be located the assembly hall, capable of seating three or four hundred people.



NINA OLDHAM.

"Our picture shows the south and east fronts, with the main entrances used by the pupils. There is also a wide entrance on the north side, and a basement entrance on the west. Fifth street is on the south, and Main street on the east. A broad walk extends from the corner of the street, to and along both fronts of the building, and a similar walk extends southwest to Fifth street. The

interior of the building is finished with hard pine. The outside steps are stone; the entrance floors are laid with colored tiles.

"The total amount expended by the district for excavating, grading up, walks, plans, specifications, advertising, building, and heating plant and extras thereto, new seats, etc., is fully

\$17,000, and it will take at least \$1,000 to complete everything, including the assembly room. In addition to the amount of bonds voted by the tax payers, there were several thousands of dollars on hand to begin with, besides what was paid in taxes for the current year.

"In addition to this building the district owns a good substantial building on the south side, where about forty pupils are enrolled, Miss Cora M. Moody, a very efficient and successful teacher, having had charge for several years.

"The members of the Board of Education who deserve great credit for carrying to a successful issue this important undertaking, are: Geo. Hakeman, president; Prof. R. B. Daniels, principal; J. F. Kerberg, J. F. Martini, T. T. Shaffner, M. M. Burns, Aug. Shoel, directors; J. H. Daly, treasurer; and Geo. O. Wheeler, secretary.

HARTLEY.

The independent district of Hartley is under good management. From the Hartley Journal and the pen of Claude Charles we are told, that "Hartley has much reason to feel grateful for her public schools. During the past ten years the schools have been rapidly advancing under the supervision of different principals and teachers. To meet the requirements of increased school population, the board of directors has, during the past two years, deemed it necessary to enlarge the building and employ more teachers.

"At present the school is graded into eleven grades or years. Miss Martha Palen is the efficient teacher of the primary department. Miss Palen's experience in primary work has shown plainly that she is mistress of her calling.

"Miss Myrtle G. Rose is in charge of the second primary department. Miss Rose is a late student of our state university



SADIE HOEPFNER.

and also of a kindergarten training school in Chicago. She has completely won the confidence of her pupils and the patrons.

"Miss Josie Gage has charge of our intermediate department. Miss Gage has taught during the past four years in this county, and is now serving her second year as intermediate teacher in this school. The good results obtained from her work bespeak the ability of Miss Gage.

"Miss Ida Nelson is teacher of the first grammar department, and although she has been in the department but one term, it is plain to be seen by her methods of instruction and discipline, that she is doing effective work for which the patrons have frequently expressed their approval.



MISS MAY BENNINK.

"Miss Mary B. Stocks, who is to be succeeded January 4th, '97 by Miss Boot, at present a student of the University of South Dakota, has had charge of the second grammar department since September, '95. Miss Stocks has proven herself a teacher in the fullest sense of the term. The results of her work will remain with her pupils, not only during their school days, but throughout

life. January 10, '97, Miss Stocks takes up her duties as county superintendent of Lyman county, South Dakota.

"E. W. Richards, principal and teacher of the high school, is now serving his second year. Mr. Richards is a former student of the Iowa State Normal school, also of the normal at Dixon, Ill. It is evident that he is endeavoring to do much for the schools, and from the present condition of the high school one may know, that it is the whole purpose of our principal to fit each student for the citizenship that they must soon claim. There are at present two grades in the high school. The members of the eleventh grade, if in good standing at

the close of the present year, will graduate and receive diplomas from the board."

SUTHERLAND.

Sutherland has a good school building, but undoubtedly in the future will require something larger. It is a square frame building, two stories. On the lower floor are two good sized rooms, which contain the primary and intermediate departments. These are well furnished, there are also large halls, and cloak rooms. Above is the high school room with seating capacity for one hundred pupils. Opening from this room are two recitation rooms, and there is a library of well selected books. Five teachers are employed as follows: M. P. Fobes, principal; Helen Biglow, Bertha Booth, Bernice Bush and Nina Magarity.

PAULLINA.

Paullina has a white painted frame school building of two stories. It has four rooms of good size with recitation room, two below and two above. The building has spacious grounds with trees. It has five teachers: G. G. Washburn, principal; Mrs. E. Dudley, assistant; Mrs. Emma Washburn, Dora Rerick and Lizzie Gardner.

PRIMGHAR.

The school at Primghar, in charge of J. J. Billingsly as principal, is one of the best in the county. Their first school building was erected in 1874, and was about 30 by 40 feet in size, two stories. The present school building in its main part was built in 1890, at a cost of \$5,000. In 1896, the building was doubled in size, which gives now plenty of room for the pupils which the school contains, to the number of 277. Prof. Billingsly has for assistants: Miss Berta Mitchell, Miss Lou Rollins, Miss Bertha Mosier, Miss Grace Foskett, and Miss Matie Rerick.

The professor is admirably fitted for duties of school instructor, and his continued employment, shows, that he has the confidence of the community, as a teacher, and as a citizen.

As a rule the country districts are careful in the selection of teachers, and the training of the rising generation is carefully looked after. In this connection, we have noticed there is some discussion in our state, as to a new method of running our township schools, and which to the writer would seem to be a desirable change. This method has been adopted in Ohio, and is described as follows:

“Instead of the little red or white school houses a few miles apart, such as we still have in Iowa, they are providing one large building in center of the township, usually built of brick and two stories. To this central point all the school children



PRIMGHAR SCHOOL BUILDING.

are brought in stages furnished for free transportation by the township. The vehicles hold about twenty-five pupils, are comfortably fitted up, and are arranged so as to be either open or covered. The routes, which are made to pass every house, are open to competitive bidders. The drivers of the stage go



PRIMGAR SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PROFESSOR.

in the morning to the extreme limits of the townships, and blow a horn when within earshot of a house, to notify the children who are to take passage. When the school hours are over, the stage re-appears, and the scholars are taken home. The system has been going but about two years, but it is said to work perfectly.

"It is claimed the new system is better than the old because the work can be more systematic. The pupils can be more perfectly graded, the buildings are better, more conveniences and appliances can be had, and finally it is said that a higher average of teachers is secured and that the expense of maintaining these schools is even less than that of maintaining so many separate schools. Not so many teachers are required."

The present school officers of the various townships, with their postoffice address, are as follows:

FLOYD TOWNSHIP.

District No. 8, Fred Nelson, Sheldon, president.

District No. 7, T. Donahue, Sheldon, secretary.

District No. 6, P. H. Sullivan, Sheldon.

District No. 3, Phil Ling, Sheldon.

District No. 1, Henry Biggs, Sheldon.

District No. 2, Chas. Dougherty, Sheldon.

District No. 5, S. A. Barrett, Sheldon.

District No. 4, C. Hain, Sheldon.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP.

District No. 1, W. H. Porter, Sanborn.

District No. 3, Peter Miller, Sanborn.

District No. 4, John Breier, Sanborn.

District No. 5, R. H. Magee, Sanborn, president.

District No. 9, B. W. Jackson, Sanborn.

D. M. Norton, secretary.

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

District No. 1, C. C. Dutton, Hartley.

District No. 2, G. F. Waekerle, Hartley.

District No. 3, L. W. Walker, Sanborn.



O'BRIEN COUNTY FARM SCENE.

- District No. 4, Mark Toal, Sanborn.
- District No. 5, W. C. Cunning, Sanborn, president.
F. E. Nunns, Hartley, secretary.
- District No. 6, W. Y. Chapman, Hartley.
- District No. 7, F. Boasted, Hartley.
- District No. 8, T. W. Farnsworth, Sanborn.

HARTLEY TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 2, Gilbert Page, Hartley.
- District No. 3, Martin Linder, Hartley.
- District No. 4, T. H. Mueller, Hartley.
- District No. 5, Solomon Longbottom, Hartley, president.
- District No. 6, R. Jones, Hartley.
- District No. 7, E. B. Steece, Hartley.
- District No. 8, Thomas Worden, Hartley.
- Henry M. Waller, Hartley secretary.

CARROLL TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 1, J. H. Burns, Sheldon.
- District No. 2, E. H. McClellan, Sheldon.
- District No. 4, Lias McMillen, Sheldon.
- District No. 5, M. F. McNutt, president.
Miss Gertie DeYounge, Sheldon, secretary.
- District No. 6, G. H. Whitmore, Sheldon.
- District No. 7, A. Appleton, Sheldon.
- District No. 8, Wm. Longman, Sheldon.
- District No. 9, John Englehardt, Sheldon.

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 1, Wm. Brundage, Sanborn, president.
- District No. 2, J. F. Geister, Sanborn.
- District No. 3, R. Arnold, Archer.
- District No. 4, James Dow, Sanborn, secretary.

CENTER TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 1, Fred Year, Hartley.
- District No. 2, Hugo Alberts, Sanborn.
- District No. 3, John Watters, Sanborn.



T. J. GRIGGS.

- District No. 4, J. C. Porter, Primghar, president.
District No. 5, W. B. Conger, Primghar, secretary.
District No. 6, W. T. Voss, Hartley.
District No. 7, John Phitzmier, Hartley.
District No. 8, C. H. Powell, Hartley.
District No. 9, A. Irving, Hartley.

OMEGA TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 1, B. Blothand, Hartley.
District No. 2, J. Dahms, Hartley.
District No. 3, C. L. Hopfe, Hartley.
District No. 4, J. Leih, Hartley.
District No. 5, J. Zinn, Hartley.
District No. 6, P. C. Keith, Hartley.
District No. 7, Frank Lighter, Hartley.
District No. 8, W. S. Yelland, Hartley, president.
John Saunders, secretary.
District No. 9, W. Hopfe, Hartley.

BAKER TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 1, S. A. Wilson, Archer.
District No. 2, E. Philby, Sheldon.
District No. 3, W. E. Benner, Sheldon.
District No. 4, Geo. Benbow, Sheldon, secretary.
District No. 5, Fred Thomas, Granville.
District No. 6, not reported.
District No. 7, not reported.
District No. 8, Tallon, Granville.
District No. 9, Leonard Grady, Granville.

DALE TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 1, Frank Cassidy, Primghar.
District No. 2, John Klink, Primghar.
District No. 3, Ed Gere, Primghar.
District No. 4, Alfred Johnson, Paullina.
District No. 5, David Fife, Paullina.
District No. 6, J. T. Daniels, Primghar.



RESIDENCE OF E. B. MESSER, HARTLEY.

District No. 7, L. Goodmanson, Paullina.

District No. 8, Wm. Cain, Paullina.

District No. 9, Robert Myer, Paullina.

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP.

District No. 1, J. F. Doyle, Primghar, secretary.

District No. 2, James Irvine, Primghar.

District No. 3, Fred Peck, Primghar.

District No. 4, P. Tjossem, Primghar.

District No. 5, Hans Peterson, Gaza.

District No. 6, James Brosh, Sutherland.

District No. 7, A. Johansen, Sutherland.

District No. 8, D. H. Lemberg, Gaza.

District No. 9, W. A. Smith, Gaza, president.

GRANT TOWNSHIP.

District No. 1, Mllton Eckman, Trimello.

District No. 2, Arthur Chapman, Trimello.

District No. 3, Alex McCreath, Sutherland.

District No. 4, Wm. Kaiser, Sutherland.

District No. 5, S. B. Crosser, Sutherland, president.

District No. 6, O. A. Sutton, Sutherland.

District No. 7, W. Wager, Sutherland.

District No. 8, E. Barry, Sutherland.

District No. 9, S. J. Jordan, Sutherland.

Miss Maud Clighorn, secretary.

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP.

District No. 1, H. Hibbing, Paullina.

District No. 2, F. Lustfield, Germantown.

District No. 3, Theo. Breithbarth, Granville.

District No. 4, Christ Kuester, Germantown.

District No. 5, Chas. Bobzin, Germantown.

District No. 6, F. Schuknecht, Germantown.

District No. 7, T. Vass, Germantown.

District No. 8, John Fisch, Germantown.

District No. 9, F. Schmidt, Germantown.



DRIVING PARK, SANBORN.

UNION TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 4, Chas. Ihle, Paullina.
- District No. 5, H. M. Winter, Paullina.
- District No. 6, H. G. Culp, Paullina.
- District No. 7, R. J. Paeper, Paullina.
- District No. 8, M. T. Taylor, Paullina.
- District No. 9, Adolph Large, Paullina.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 1, John Engelke, Sutherland, president.
- District No. 2, J. C. Doling, Paullina.
- District No. 3, Wm. Wiese, Calumet.
- District No. 4, C. W. Ray, Sutherland.
- District No. 5, Herman Reimers, Calumet.
- District No. 6, John Kundel, Calumet.
- District No. 7, H. P. Scott, Calumet, secretary.

WATERMAN TOWNSHIP.

- District No. 1, J. P. Martin, Sutherland.
- District No. 2, Gust Schwein, Sutherland.
- District No. 4, Silas Steel, Sutherland.
- District No. 5, F. M. Gaskill, Sutherland.
- District No. 6, L. B. Hill, Peterson.
- District No. 7, M. E. Kauffman, Peterson.
- District No. 8, A. Broadstreet, Sutherland, president.
- District No. 9, L. D. Cobb, Sutherland.
- F. W. Hulser, Sutherland, secretary.
- County school directors of independent districts.

SHELDON.

W. H. Meyers, Ed. C. Brown, E. P. Messer, J. McCandless, John Bowley, S. S. Bailey, Richard Peakman secretary.

SANBORN.

George Hakeman, M. N. Burns, T. T. Shaffner, A. Schoel, J. F. Kerberg, G. F. Martini, G. O. Wheeler, secretary.

HARTLEY.

C. H. Westfall, Dr. D. T. Stewart, C. A. Simms, S. L. Young, Wm. Fuller, W. G. Wellman and E. E. Hall, secretary.

PAULLINA.

A. P. Jacobs, president, W. E. McCauley, W. W. Delmage, John Metcalf, Geo. Carfield, W. J. Hakes, Stephen Harris, secretary.

SUTHERLAND.

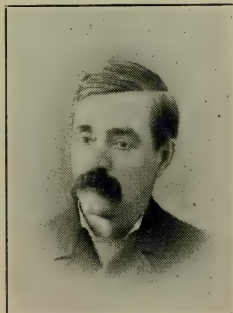
D. M. Sheldon, W. S. Hitchings, J. C. Briggs, G. K. Schultz, Otto Kirchhof, I. N. Slick, E. O. Woodbury, secretary.

PRIMGHAR.

C. H. Slocum, president, W. S. Armstrong, J. P. Knox, W. J. Bruce, Henry Rerick, Wm. Ortman, David Algyer, secretary.

FINANCES.

Up to the time Mr. Waterman came to the county, or rather to 1858, gold and silver were the principal medium of exchange, but as Mr. Waterman had but little of either of these, and was the only settler for several years, there is nothing of the finances of the county then, which requires mention in this history. Soon after, there was scattered over the western country, an unlimited supply of wild cat paper, or rather the paper of private and state banks, embellished with flaring cuts, beautiful to look at. They were very fine pictures floating around, with a value on the dollar, from one cent up. Soon as the county warrant machine was started up, then county warrants were the county currency, and merchandise was priced accordingly. Later on, there was added to this, the gopher



W. N. STRONG.

scalp currency, but what is the difference if one desires to buy something, whether he pays in gold dollars, or in gopher scalps, as long as he gets what he wants, and has the price in either to pay for it.

As will be seen elsewhere in this book, debts were contracted at an early date by the gang of thieves who organized the county. It is very easy to get into debt, this is understood from individual experiences, and much easier for a county, when a corrupt set of officials have every opportunity to issue warrants, without any restriction or hindrance. All it needs is the proper blank, and they are easily obtained, and then the amount filled in, and signed by the auditor; and while those early organizers may have been idle otherwise, they were exceedingly industrious in the labor of issuing warrants. The truth of the matter is, that the county should not have been organized until 1871, as then there were incoming actual settlers who came not to plunder, but to make homes on the prairie. But it was organized, and the disgraceful record of its early organization is before us. It is true the county has now overcome this early debt, its resources and its valuable taxable list of property enables the county to keep its warrants at par, and pay as it goes. A debt can be easily created when the expenses exceed the income, and when warrants are depreciated, when an article of the market value of \$5, requires a payment of \$25 to obtain it. After some statements made in the general written history, and particularly when J. W. Kelley was on the board of supervisors, it is enough perhaps to give the following statement made by Auditor Schee in January, 1877:

REPORT OF SUPERVISORS.

Judgment bonds	\$ 80,700.00
Judgment bonds	12,500.00
Balance due on Judgment bonds	68,200.00
Funding bonds issued prior to January 1st, 1876	62,400.00
Funding bonds issued in 1876	53,700.00
Total funding bonds	<u>\$116,100.00</u>

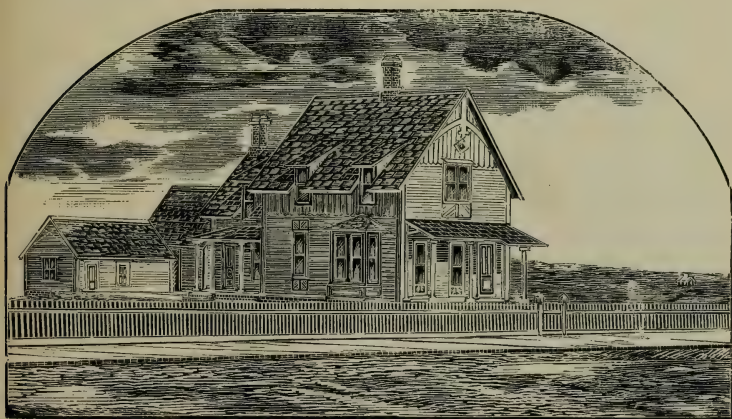


M. E. CHURCH. SHELDON.

Total amount of judgment and funding bonds, the legality of which are not in dispute	184,300.00
There are funding bonds of 1861 issue, not cancelled	11,800.00
Interest on the above	17,700.00
Total	213,800.00
Outstanding bounty warrants	6,000.00
Interest on the bounty warrants	6,600.00
Total	12,600.00
Total amount of all bonded indebtedness, including the bounty warrants	226,400.00
Judgments	19,570.00
Amount floating warrants	27,755.00
Making a total debt of	\$273,725.00
Expenses of running the county in 1874, over its income	\$ 16,328.55
Expenses of running the county in 1875, over its income	20,249.96
Expenses of running the county in 1876, over its income	16,882.30
The expenses of the county for 1876	25,082.30

In 1880 there was paid on this debt the sum of \$30,000, and a sinking fund was created, which was intended to decrease the debt each year. The county has several times bonded its indebtedness. It did this in 1881 at seven per cent interest, and rebonded in 1886 at five per cent interest. In 1894 an action was brought by certain parties to enjoin the payment of these bonds, upon the ground that the debt at the time it was contracted, exceeded the constitutional limitation of five per cent. This action perhaps might have been prosecuted to a final termination successfully, but it became a question again among the people, whether or not it would be better to pay the debt, and preserve the credit of the county. After awhile the action resulted in rebonding again, at a lower rate

of interest, so that these bonds now draw four per cent. The plaintiffs in this last named action, were accused of dismissing the case for a consideration, but as to this we do not know, as the business was transacted at Cantón, South Dakota, whither the chairman of the board and the auditor, went to close the matter up. It was done in Dakota, for the reason, that the bondholders were afraid to open the satchel containing the bonds in Iowa, for fear that some one in the interest of the county, and in the interest of himself as a taxpayer, might seize them with some process of law. It is enough to say that the county now has smooth sailing financially, and that outside parties seeking investment for their money, need have no fear of unjust or oppressive taxation.



RESIDENCE OF H. B. WYMAN, BURNED, 1895.

In the fall of 1881, while T. J. Alexander was treasurer of the county, his cash was found to be short \$11,000. From the fact that Mr. Alexander was known to be a thoroughly honest man, and naturally free from the slightest inclination to steal, this shortage when it became known, was the cause of much discussion and surprise. Another singular thing about

it was, that the shortage was not known at the time generally, but came out in 1885, during a political campaign, and then got into the newspapers, and in the columns of these, statements were made by Mr. Alexander, Geo. W. Schee, and an article by J. L. E. Peck. When Mr. Alexander found that he was short, he informed some of his friends, and it was a question whether he was short in his accounts, or his cash.

C. E. Achorn was then agreed upon as a committee to examine the books, which he did, and reported that in these, there was no error, it was a shortage of cash; somebody had taken bodily out of the treasurer's safe \$11,000 in clean cash, and the remaining question was, who took it.

The county did not lose anything, as Mr. Schee furnished the money to Mr. Alexander to make up the shortage, taking from Alexander certain securities. When the matter became fully known in 1885, so that the people and the newspapers were talking about it, it required explanation. The first statement was made by Mr. Alexander in October, 1885, in which he said, "I wish to state, that in the fall of 1881, I found I was short some \$11,000. Being convinced I was short in my cash, and not in my accounts, I then informed my friends. They believed it was in my accounts, and would eventually be found, helped me to reimburse the county, thus saving the county from any loss. I also wish to state, that I have no idea where the money went, or who got it. I deny of ever making any statement or insinuations that Geo. W. Schee had the money, or that I believed that he had the money." This was the first statement made by Mr. Alexander in the matter.

A week afterwards he made another statement, in which he said substantially, that when he was satisfied that the money was gone, and that the mistake was not in his accounts, he informed Mr. Achorn, who spent most of his time for three days in looking over the books, hoping to find the error. He then told Mr. Schee what was wrong, and that he could find no mistake in the books. Mr. Schee said he was satisfied the error would be found, but after further investigation, it was

thought it could not be found, and then he made arrangements with Mr. Schee to save the county from loss. He deeded to Mr. Schee the south half of the southeast quarter of section 34-97-41, which he thought was worth \$2,000. Turned in to Mr. Schee \$1,250 of notes held against various parties, and gave his own note for \$500 to be paid out of his second year's salary, and had an understanding with Mr. Schee, that he was to have the use of any surplus county funds to the amount of the shortage. Mr. Alexander also stated, that Mr. Schee told him in the first conversation had, if it should prove true that the shortage was in the cash, and not in the books, that the matter must be fixed up, both for Mr. Schee's sake, and for the sake of the board of supervisors in the bonding matter. That Mr. Schee further told him that he was worth about \$4,000 more than he could account for, and therefore was willing that it should go towards making up the shortage. A week after that, Mr.



RESIDENCE OF F. R. PATCH, HARTLEY.

Schee made a statement, in which he starts out by saying "I never stole \$12,000 from Mr. Alexander, I never settled with him for \$7,000, I never made him a present of \$7,000. I do not think any person in the county honestly believes that I ever stole of Mr. Alexander or any other man \$12,000, or any other amount." He also states that he never had \$4,000 in 1881, or at any other time that he could not account for. Mr. Schee further wanted to know why Mr. Alexander for nearly four years since the shortage, had been his

friend, done business for him, and traded with him, time and time again, since supported him in politics up to the time when the Democrats had taken Mr. Alexander up, fifteen days before. Mr. Schee further stated, that he did say to Mr. Alexander that if it turned out to be a loss, he could afford to lose a part of it, as he was \$4,200 better off than he expected to be, on account of what he made in four thousand acres of land he bought of L. Greve at \$2.50 per acre, and sold mostly to W. L. Culbertson at \$3.50 per acre, and some to other parties, at \$10 and \$15 per acre. Mr. Schee further inquired, why, if Mr. Alexander's statements were true, and that Schee got the money, why did not Mr. Alexander have him arrested at the time, and why the matter was not brought out until Alexander got into democratic hands. This is about the extent of the statement of the parties in the matter, and all that the public seemed to know about it when the discussion ended, was, that there was a shortage of \$11,000 cash taken bodily from the safe, that through the aid of Mr. Schee, it was made up by Mr. Alexander to the county, but who stole the money, has since remained a mystery and Mr. Alexander denied charging the theft upon anybody, but said as to his thoughts and intents, these were sacred between himself and his God, until future ages should reveal more light on the subject. T. J. Alexander did not know a dishonest act, he was made a tool of by somebody, and robbed, for certainly he would not rob himself. The county, however, lost nothing, as Mr. Alexander with the aid of Mr. Schee, made up the shortage. The last treasurer of the county before Mr. West, Henry Rerick, was a very popular official; his work was always well done, and his integrity no man ever questioned. The present incumbent, also efficiently manages the office.

CALUMET.

The town of Calumet was laid out by the Illinois Central Railroad company in the year of 1887, on section 22 in Liberty township.

The town is located on a spot of level prairie, surrounded by a portion of the best of O'Brien county farming land. It has two business streets, one running east and west, and another running north and south. It is not a town claiming metropolitan distinction, but from a business stand point, there is no reason why it has not much promise for the future. It is situated upon the Illinois Central Railroad connecting with the main line, from Cherokee to Sioux Falls. The railroad reached the town site in its construction in the fall of 1887. After the track was laid, the first building erected was the depot building. The first building erected on the town site was a residence, by a man by the name of Douglass, who was a carpenter; he moved away some years ago, and is now in Missouri. The next building erected was for a general store, and was put up by Wheelock Bros., in which they put a general stock of merchandise. The management of this store changed hands several times, until a few years ago, when D. C. Fields purchased the stock, and is now running the store. Mr. Fields is mentioned



DR. F. J. GALLAGHER.

elsewhere in connection with Liberty township, and is one of its first settlers. A postoffice was established at once as soon as the town started, and was kept by the depot agent, Mr. Thornburg, who was the first postmaster, as well as the first depot agent. Mr. Thornburg moved from Calumet to Leeds, Iowa, and was succeeded as postmaster by Mr. Jones, and after him, the present postmaster, Geo. G. Reifsteck was appointed.

About the same time Wheelock Bros. erected their store building, there was built a German parsonage, which was used for a hotel building until the erection of the present hotel, which was built in the spring of 1890, by Frank Baker.

After the starting of the town the present elevator was soon built, and coal and lumber supplies soon followed. The lumber yard was put in by J. H. Queal & Co., lumber firm, who still are the present owners. There are two church buildings on the town site, one of which is Methodist and was erected in the spring of 1891, whose present pastor is Rev. H. B. Green.

The other, a German Lutheran church was erected in 1892, and whose pastor is Rev. E. Rall. The store building now occupied by Geo. G. Reifsteck was built by Chas. Horrick in 1889, and was run by him until a few years ago when Geo. G. Reifsteck purchased the same.

The Calumet bank was established in 1889, by Horstman Bros. & Seaman of Sutherland, Iowa, who sold to John C. Craig in 1890. The bank was then discontinued, and the building was purchased by the present proprietor, Mr. J. W. Neild in 1893. Mr. Neild was formally a resident of Granville, Iowa. Horstman Bros. & Seaman are now in the banking business at Sau Luis, California. The principal business houses of the town are as follows: D. C. Fields, general store; Geo. G. Reifsteck, general store; Earnest Pape is the present hardware dealer, who purchased his building from the former owner, Geo. Depew, several years ago. John H. Queal & Co., lumber, coal, etc., run by Thos. Faust of Sutherland, a grain elevator run by Lewis Meade was erected soon after the railroad, a blacksmith shop formally owned by Ben Roby is now owned by E. W. Guenther, also a pool hall run by John Holst, a harness shop run by George Butler who is also landlord of the hotel, called the Commercial House, there is also a saloon in the town, there is one physician, Dr. C. P. Mueller, who became a resident there in 1893, moving there from Marcus, Iowa. There is one livery stable in the town run by Frank Baker.

The town was incorporated in 1894. A petition was presented at the December, 1894, term of the district court praying for the incorporation of Calumet, and to include as its territory the following described land: The south half of the northwest quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 22, Liberty township. The court appointed the following named commissioners for the purpose of incorporation: W. M. Bunce, B. Harrington, J. W. Neild, L. Reifsteck, D. C. Fields.

These commissioners called a special election for the purpose of voting upon the question, as to whether the town should incorporate or not. This election resulted in 19 for incorporation, and 10 against.

The commissioners then called a special election on April 17, 1895, for the first election of officers. This election was held according to the notice, and the following named officers were elected: Mayor, W. M. Bunce; recorder, J. W. Neild; councilmen, L. Reifsteck, D. C. Fields, Earnst Pape, E. W. McOmber, Peter Rehder, Lewis Meade.

The first meeting of the council was held April 18th, 1895. We had occasion to examine the books of this incorporated town kept by Recorder Neild since the preliminary steps were taken towards incorporation, and we must say that the full, complete, clean and well written way in which they are kept, is decidedly creditable to Mr. Neild as an officer of the town. Following this election was held another election, which occurred in March, 1896, at the fixed time of such municipal elections all over the state. This election resulted in the election



FRED. W. BLOXHAM.

of the following named officers: W. M. Bunce was re-elected mayor, and J. W. Neild, recorder; J. P. Litka, treasurer; Geo. G. Reifsteck, assessor; Jacob Holst, street commissioner, and the following named councilmen: D. C. Fields, Earnest Pape, Paul Goettsch, Peter Rehder and Lewis Meade. The present officers for 1897 are as follows: Mayor, W. M. Bunce; recorder, J. W. Neild; treasurer, J. P. Litka; assessor, Geo. Reifsteck; street commissioner, William Litka; councilmen, E. W. Guenther, G. S. Butler, newly elected.

On the 19th day of May, 1897, Calumet suffered a loss by fire, which burned five of its business houses. D. C. Fields' store, also the next building owned by J. W. Neild, hardware store belonging to E. Pape, implement house also belonging E. Pape, and photograph gallery. Books, papers and goods were destroyed, and some money, so that the loss at the time was estimated at \$11,000.

ARCHER.

The town of Archer was named after John H. Archer who owned the land upon which the town site was started. Mr. Archer is an extensive farmer still living near the town. The town started in 1888. About the first building was a blacksmith shop, which was in March, 1888. That same spring T. D. White was commissioned as postmaster but failed to serve, so the appointment was made to A. A. Bisbee who was one of the pioneer merchants in the town, of the firm of West & Bisbee, and these parties established the first mercantile house. W. L. Edgerton now of Sheldon, started in 1889 in the hay business, and shipped large quantities, and afterwards was in the stock business. Milo Benedict was the first station agent. The town is on the line of the Illinois Central R. R. and is on section 24, in Carrol township. The firm of West & Bisbee failed in business in November, upon which H. H. Parrish succeeded them. Mr. Parrish also became postmaster and has continued in business at Archer since that time, and who by square dealing has established a good trade. Mr.

Parrish commands the respect of the people and is well known in the county. Its present business houses are E. J. Edmunds Elevator Co., managed by C. M. Mast. The Chicago, O'Neal Elevator Co., managed by Charles Spike. Tiemens & Kooyman, dealers in hardware; Williams Bros., general store, in charge of O. L. Campbell; A. Rolow, blacksmith; Henry Tiemens, blacksmith; Harness Shop, George Pederson; restaurant and billiard hall, by John Kaiser.

The present depot agent is W. J. Sinyard. Several years ago a Methodist church was erected on the town site where services are conducted, with O. E. Van Horn as pastor. There is also organized a Christian church at Archer, supplied from Primghar and Sheldon. The town has good prospects of much future growth, and it probably will not be long, before it will wear municipal honors.



F. E. SIMPSON.

The townsite is owned by the C. E. McKinney Investment Co., of Sioux Falls, S. D., whose agent for the sale of lots is lawyer P. R. Bailey, of Primghar.

GAZA.

The town of Gaza is located on section 28 in Highland township. It is on the line of the Illinois Central Railroad, and was started soon after this road was built across the county from Cherokee. The town was named by some ardent lover of sacred history, who reached out upon the shores of the Mediterranean sea, and selected the name of a hamlet in Judea. The first store building, and in which was placed a stock of goods, was built by H. Ehlers in 1887. Mr. Ehlers was also the first postmaster. This store has passed through several different hands until the present owner and proprietor, C. F. Reifsteck, who is also postmaster. The Chicago, O'Neal Elevator Co. is in charge of Geo. Reader; W. J. Bruce & Co.,

of Primghar, have a lumber and coal yard in charge of R. Chapman. Joseph Renoldson, of Primghar, has a branch machinery house managed by Charles Hintz. The present station agent is C. Schnorr. A Congregational church building was erected in 1896, which has a good membership, with Mrs. A. L. B. Nutting as pastor. L. T. Gates, secretary of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co., makes his headquarters at Gaza. The town was first named Woodstock, but it being soon ascertained that there was another town of this name, it was changed to Gaza. Gaza like all other towns in the county, is surrounded with productive farms and substantial residences, and there is no reason why it should not become something of a town in the future.

PAULLINA.

The town of Paullina is located on the northeast quarter of section 9, in Union township, and has an addition on the adjoining section north. It was named after the Paullina brothers, who owned the quarter section on which the town is laid out, and were also the owners of other land adjacent to the town site. This town started ahead of the railroad, in 1882, in anticipation of its coming, and when the first locomotive whistled within the limits of the townsite, there were already business houses.

The first parties to aid in Paullina's growth, were Messrs. Adkins and Davis of Jasper county. This firm began building, and had their store buildings ready for occupancy, about the middle of March. A general stock of merchandise was carried by this firm, and from the first, their business proved profitable; some days their sales reaching over \$600.

Contemporaneous with this building, was a small house erected by B. F. Rozell for hotel purposes, and from the fact of its being the first hotel in the place, was properly named the Pioneer House. Before even this small structure could be completed, it was filled to overflowing with boarders and transient guests. As this state of things continued, Mr. Rozell

found it necessary to increase his accommodations, which was accordingly done. The next firm to begin business here, was the Sprague Bros. of Primghar, who began the erection of a livery stable of large proportions. This was thought, by some, to be a losing speculation, but the same story repeats itself, for the business prospered from the first, and reached such a magnitude that the stock and accommodations failed to meet the demands that were continually made upon it. The barn was then enlarged, and a more complete stock added.

About this time T. E. Shrader cast his lot with those already here, and put up a story and a half residence and restaurant. Later on, a bar was added, and other improvements made. The first saloon opened here, was by Cal Peterman in a tent near the depot grounds. Finding this accommodation inadequate, a small board

shanty was built, which, in turn, gave away to a fine large building, neatly arranged with two billiard tables, and a commodious bar. The first carpenter to make this his residence was F. C. Daniels, who built a large shop and residence, and soon after began contracting, at the same time employing eight skilled workmen to aid him. Under this force of men, building after building appeared in quick succession.

After this time the increase of people and improvement became so great, that it is difficult to state in what order they came. Still, building was somewhat impeded, owing to the fact that all the material had to be hauled eighteen and twenty miles by team. There were a number here however, who, in spite of this disadvantage, determined to begin opera-



HENRY SHIPLEY.

tions as soon as possible. Among these was C. C. Smith, who began by erecting a large store building for hardware purposes. The hardware stock of Johnson & Hakeman, at Primghar, was purchased, and this, together with a large additional amount of new stock and tinner's supplies, was put in, and a paying business began at once, and continued at such a rate that additions to this large building were made from time to time. Near this time G. W. Elliot began his residence on Main street, and embarked in his old trade, that of carpenter, which he had dropped for a time. C. R. Waterman was the next one on the scene, and his building was designed for hotel purposes. On the 4th of July it was thrown open to the public, and christened the Paullina house. Additions to this building were made a necessity, until it reached the proportions of a commodious and well arranged hotel, having a large patronage, far exceeding the expectations of its proprietor. Later on a meat market was opened and operated by Mr. Waterman. The amount of meat sold, and business transacted by him, was a surprise to all. Some weeks as high as ten beeves were slaughtered, besides a large number of hogs and sheep. The "Home and Restaurant" was the name given to another hospitable hotel dedicated by an old fashioned supper on July 4th, with H. Godfrey as host. Perhaps the store doing the most business in the same period of time, was the one built by the Railroad Supply Company, about the first of June, and known as the Railroad Store. The business transacted at this store was simply enormous, the sales amounting on an average to \$850 per day. After the grading on the railroad was completed, this store was removed to Silver Lake, in Dickinson county, and the building left unoccupied until fall, when it was purchased by G. W. Davis and used by him as a residence.

Theodore Wiechner, a jolly German shoemaker from Reinbeck, Grundy county, all undaunted by the distance from which the building material had been hauled, purchased his bill of lumber in Sanborn, and immediately began building a

large boot and shoe store on Broadway. Before its completion, however, he began to realize his lonely condition, and went away to find a wife. In this he was successful, and returned to find his building ready for occupancy.

Messtrs. Johnson & Hakeman of Primghar, hearing the wonderful stories told of Paullina and her prospects, came over to investigate the foundation of these reports. After due deliberation, they concluded to remove their lumber office and stock to this place. But little was done by this firm until the advent of the railroad, and the regular running of trains, which occurred early in August. After that time, car load after car load of lumber, lime and coal began to pour in over the new road for this firm, and was disposed of by them as soon as received. So great was the demand for this material, that fully six months had elapsed, before this activity began at all to decrease, and in that time upward of one hundred and fifty car loads of lumber, sixty of coal and five of lime, had passed through their hands to third parties.

J. H. Queal & Co., and the Wisconsin Lumber Co., soon after opened yards here, and both met the same live experiences, making sales of large amounts of lumber and coal; in fact, for a time the supply could not meet the demand, so fast was building carried on. It was not long before other citizens of Primghar were making this place their home, some even bringing their buildings on wheels with them. Among this number was Wm. Hastings and family, who continued to live in the house while taking this novel journey.

Mr. Hastings also brought his blacksmith shop in the same



REV. FATHER P. F. FARRELLY.

manner, but we believe he allowed the fire to die out in the forge for the time being. If so, it was soon after kindled, for the sparks were soon seen flying, as he continued his profitable work at the anvil. Near the middle of July, A. Hanson began the erection of a fine building, designing the first floor for hardware purposes, and the second for a residence.

Bossert & Davis is the name of another firm, who put up a large two-story store building, and put in a stock of clothing, gent's furnishing goods, boots, shoes and groceries, and like the others, made many and quick sales. Early in the fall, Dr. J. H. Stevens of Montour, Tama county, erected a commodious building and put in a stock of drugs, and placed Dr. C. S. Paul in charge. Harker & Green of Sanborn, erected four commodious store buildings. Dr. C. H. West a former physician of Primghar, located here in the fall, and built a residence and office.

Early in July Oscar D. Hamstreet a young attorney came here, and seeing a good opening for the practice of his profession, concluded to remain and accordingly erected an office and began business. L. D. Bechtell came here in October and erected a grain warehouse, and began buying grain and stock. The largest and most costly business edifice was the grain elevator, built by Edward Paullina. This building was finished just at the beginning of winter, at a cost of some \$6,000 or \$7,000. Residences and business houses continued to go up, until soon the town was placed on a firm foundation. A church and Sabbath school were early organized, and held their meetings in the Pioneer house, the former under the charge of Rev. Caldwell of Marcus, and the latter under the supervision of Mr. Cowen. Both of these organizations prospered.

In six months after Paullina started, it had made the following progress in business houses, residences, and their value.

The Paullina grain elevator, \$6,000; Chicago and Northwestern railway depot, \$2,000; C. C. Smith, store building and residence, \$1,800; A. Hanson, store building, \$1,500; J. P.

Bossert, store building, \$1,600; Adkins & Davis, store building, \$1,000; Harker & Green, four store buildings, \$3,200; L. D. Bechtell, grain ware house, \$1,000; Johnson & Hakeman, lumber office and sheds, \$1,000; J. H. Queal & Co., office and sheds, \$1,100; Wisconsin Lumber Co., office and sheds, \$1,000; Sprague Bros., livery barn, \$1,000; Johnson & Hakeman, livery barn, built for Morse & Antrim, \$1,000; B. F. Rozell, hotel, (Pioneer House), \$1,300; C. R. Waterman, Paullina House and barn, \$1,400; Theodore Wiechner, boot and shoe store, \$700; F. C. Daniels, furniture and cabinet shop, \$1,200; T.E.Shraeder, store building and saloon,\$1,600; J. H. Stevens, drug store building, \$1,000; H. Godfrey, home and restaurant, \$900; Mrs. Fred Miller, business house in course of erection, \$700; railroad company's store building, \$600; Johnson & Hake-



I. N. M'INTIRE.

man, store building, \$600; K. L. Hatter, residence and store building, \$700; J. P. Howe & Co., wagon manufactory, \$600; C. H. Peterman, restaurant and saloon, \$700; O. D. Hamestreet, law office, \$300; J. N. Veeder, harness shop, \$300; C. R. Waterman, meat market, \$300; George W. Schee, office building occupied by the Times, \$300; J. W.

Bunker, residence, \$1,000; W. W. Johnson, residence, \$900; George Hakeman, residence, \$900; William Hastings, residence and blacksmith shop, \$600; residence for railroad section boss, \$700; G. W. Elliott, residence, \$500; Dr. H. C. West, office and residence, \$400; Lewis Resne, residence, \$500; F. M. Young, residence, \$500; C. G. Bundy, residence, \$500; N. Upham, residence, \$500; Calvin Wells, residence, \$400; John Deary, residence, \$400; Mrs. Deborah Grover, residence, \$400. Total, \$41,000.

The Paullina Times with its editor is elsewhere mentioned, under the heading "Newspapers."

In the eighties, Paullina brought its home talent into requisition, and upon the stage there was presented to the people "The Soldier of Fortune." The several parts of same were by J. P. Bossert, L. A. Douglass, Frank Cooke, B. L. Pratt, Stephen Harris, Charlie Harris, W. S. Loveless and J. W. Bunker. Three ladies were in the play, Mrs. B. L. Pratt, Miss Jennie Gruver and Mrs. Ida Harris.

The ladies of the town also had a Shakesperean club.

In the season of 1888, up to the 1st day of November, there was shipped from this point, by Dodge & Hakeman, and Metcalf & Cannon, the following amount of grain:

Oats, 263,140 bushels; wheat, 64,550 bushels; barley, 185,500 bushels; flax, 46,000 bushels; corn, 86,200 bushels; timothy, 5,860 bushels; rye, 1,600 bushels.

Several of the original settlers are still in Paullina, and many have left and some have died. A. Hanson was one of the early business men, and has remained with the town since. His length of time there, together with a profitable and successful business established, are proof that as a dealer he has the confidence of the people.

In December, 1882, Paullina organized the usual musical attachment, a brass band. Its players at first were Stephen Harris, E flat; Joe Bunker, tenor; Chet Davis, baritone; H. L. Hatter, tuba; Wm. Stewart, B flat; E. W. Chandler, alto; Geo. W. Davis, bass drum; the town contributed liberally and

the boys were well equipped. The town improved rapidly after starting, showing valuable improvements each year, and in 1885, it footed up to \$28,039, and in 1886, \$42,371. Paullina's first 4th of July celebration was in 1885. The program opened with a balloon ascension, but owing to a high wind, it was not a success. W. R. Johnson was president of the day, who introduced Rev. R. Fancher as the chaplain, and this gentleman opened the exercises with prayer. Dr. C. H. Meyers then read the declaration, which was followed with an oration by J. L. E. Peck. An oration in German was then delivered by Rev. E. Fuerer, and an extemporaneous speech by Rev. Fannon of Spencer. The fantastic troupe called the "Hipizorinktums" then made their appearance, with a grand parade amid shouts of laughter. The gun clubs then did some shooting; there was a base ball game between Paullina and the Highland clubs, in which Paullina won.



CHARLES S. PERRY.

Bert Stewart won in the horse race, Peter Peterson the sack race, and J. W. Gaunt the first prize in the foot race. There was music by the Paullina band, and the day closed with fireworks. The second celebration was in 1887, starting out with a large procession headed by the Paullina cornet band. At the bowery Rev. W. E. Caldwell opened the exercises with prayer, followed with singing by the glee club, composed of F. P. Gates, J. V. Adkins, Charles Gates, Mrs. W. E. Caldwell, Mrs. S. Harris and Miss Cora Orcutt. C. H. Winter-

ble read the declaration, and Scott Ladd now of the supreme bench, delivered the oration. Then followed the usual games and sports, with fireworks in the evening, but these were not extensive as the choicest pieces by accident had caught fire and burned.

In 1887, an incorporated company was formed for the purpose of building a town hall which was completed in February, 1888. An Odd Fellows lodge was organized in February, 1885, by E. R. Wood, G. M. of Sanborn.

The following were installed as its first officers: Wm. F. Clark, N. G.; W. R. Johnson, V. G.; George Hakeman, secretary; W. W. Johnson, treasurer; and I. L. Rerick, warden. The lodge started out with fifteen members, and the installation exercises closed with a banquet at the Smith House.

In 1886, Paullina caught the county seat fever, and made some show of an effort towards securing it, at any rate on paper, also made a move to secure that town as a railroad division, showing that the people were awake and alert in the line of progress, even if they did not succeed.

The Mickey House opened on the evening of October 4, 1886, with quite a spread. There were about two hundred and fifty guests, who eat and danced until morning.

The Farmers State bank was incorporated in March, 1886, with its first board of directors as follows: George Hakeman, Ralph Dodge, L. N. B. LaRue, W. W. Johnson, and Stephen Harris.

The only lawyer in Paullina is H. H. Crow who graduated from the Iowa University in 1882, opened an office in Sutherland in 1883, and soon after moved to his present location. Mr. Crow is a very able conscientious lawyer, and enjoys the complete confidence of his fellow citizens.

There are two banks, the Paullina bank and the Farmers State bank. The Paullina bank was established in August, 1882, with John Baumann as president; in 1884 the proprietors were John Metcalf & Bro.; the bank is now owned by John Metcalf & Co., with John Adkins as cashier, and Geo. Raw,

assistant cashier. John Metcalf is one of the solid men of the town, he has a decided repugnance to everything crooked and dishonest, and to anybody who is not straight; he is a very square, successful business man, and commands the respect of all who know him. Mr. Adkins is a substantial gentlemanly fellow, and an early resident. Stephen Harris as will be seen elsewhere is an early settler of the county, who is now cashier of the Farmers bank.

The civic societies with their officers are as follows:

ODD FELLOWS—PAULLINA LODGE.

A. W. Proctor, N. G.
F. M. Bethel, V. G.
I. L. Rerick, chaplin.
Chris Meltvedt, secretary.
Chas. Ihli, treasur.

D. OF R.—WILD ROSE LODGE.

Mrs. C. Meltvedt, N. G.
Velina Bethel, secretary.

A. F. & A. M.

Geo. P. Buell, W. M.
Ed. Bochman, S. W.
Geo. Ross, J. W.
F. V. D. Bogert, secretary.

K. OF P.

L. Wallenberg, P. C.
H. Sprague, C. C.
N. Loucks, V. C.
F. Young, M. A.
Ed. Bochman, P.
F. M. Bethel, K. of R. & S. & M. of F.

M. W. OF A.—MILL CREEK LODGE.

Geo. Carfield, V. C.
F. V. D. Bogert, clerk.

PAULLINA BUSINESS MEN.

W. J. Hakes, carpenter.
Mrs. Robert McFeeder, millinery.
J. D. Smith, groceries.
John Bossert, billiard hall.
Strampe & Meyer, meat market.
Meltvedt & Weichner, dry goods and groceries.
J. N. Weiss, harness shop.
Louis Wallenberg, dry goods and groceries.
Crow & Hunter, lawyers.
Stephen Harris, banker.
Charley Watts, barber.
Dr. E. Dudley, physician.
Ed Rorem, real estate.
F. L. Park, jeweler.
Theo. Stein, painter.
L. Swanson.
A. Miller, dry goods and groceries.
Ralfs & Pahl, saloon.
Metcalf & Cannon, elevator.
A. Williamson, Paullina mills.
Ralph Dodge, elevator.
O. K. Olson, Paulina hotel.
Fred Sprague, confectionery and restaurant.
F. E. Paine, druggist.
George Ross, tailor.
E. Lustfield, boots and shoes.
J. S. Scott & Co., druggists.
Dr. Henry Scott, physician.
Paullina Bank, Pres. John Metcalf, John Adkins, Cash.
A. Hanson, hardware and warehouse.
John Cowan, jr., harness shop.
George P. Buell, postmaster.
Hubert Sprague, livery stable.
Buell & Cannon Bros., lumber and coal.
Fred Schrader, farm implements.

Hans Kock, blacksmith.
 Charley Adkins, carpenter.
 John Hastings, blacksmith.
 J. H. Queal & Co., lumber and coal.
 David Adkins, general merchandise.
 John Cowan, furniture.
 Frank M. Bethel, Paullina Times.
 Mrs. B. L. Pratt, millinery.
 Dr. Wm. Doughty, physician.
 A. P. Jacobs, hardware.
 Jake Johansen, saloon.
 Chris Lindemann, restaurant.
 Geo. Carfield, blacksmith.
 Frank Traver, dray line.
 William Elder, dray line.
 W. S. Morrow, dentist.

Paullina was incorporated in 1883. The special election called for the purpose of voting for or against, was held the 30th day of November of that year, and resulted in 44 for, and 7 against. Soon after this was the first election of officers, and these together with the officers of each year since, are as follows:

1883.

Mayor	I. L. Rerick
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	A. Hanson, J. P. Bossert, D. H. Ad-
	kins, Geo. Veeder, J. M. Baumann and W. W. Johnson
Marshal	E. P. Paine
Street Commissioner	E. P. Paine
Assessor	E. P. Paine
Treasurer	J. M. Baumann

1884.

Mayor	J. W. Egy
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	A. Hanson, J. P. Bossert, W. W. Johnson,
	J. A. Warner, C. R. Waterman and D. H. Adkins

Marshal	E. P. Paine
Assessor	E. P. Paine
Street Commissioner	E. P. Paine
Treasurer	J. M. Baumann
Solicitor	H. H. Crow

1885.

Mayor	E. P. Paine,
March to September. Then H. C. West appointed.	
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	Thos. Metcalf, J. W. Bunker, D. H. Ad-
kins, F. V. D. Bogert, C. R. Waterman, J. A. Warner	
Marshal	

E. P. Paine, March to September. Then T. R. Stewart	
Street Commissioner	
E. P. Paine, March to September. Then Hubert Sprague	
Assessor	H. H. Crow
Solicitor	H. H. Crow

1886.

Mayor ... H. C. West, March to June. Then Isaac Sprague	
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen .. W. W. Johnson, Geo. Hakeman, David By-	
som, F. V. D. Bogert, J. W. Bunker and J. W. Egy	
Marshal	

... T. R. Stewart, March to June. Then Geo. Carfield	
Street Commissioner	Hubert Sprague
Assessor	I. L. Rerick
Treasurer	J. N. Veeder

1887.

Mayor	C. D. Hamstreet
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	D. H. Adkins, John Metcalf, J. W.
Egy, J. W. Bunker, W. W. Johnson and Geo. Hakeman	
Marshal	Geo. Carfield
Street Commissioner	L. N. B. LaRue
Assessor	I. L. Rerick
Treasurer	J. N. Veeder

1888.

Mayor	William Schneider
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	J. P. Bossert, J. W. Egy, D. M. Adkins, John Metcalf, W. W. Johnson and Geo. Hakeman
Marshal	Geo. Carfield
Street Commissioner	L. N. B. LaRue
Assessor	E. L. Paine
Treasurer	J. N. Veeder

1889.

Mayor	Isaac Sprague
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	Ralph Dodge, Albert P. Jacobs, George P. Buell, J. P. Bossert, J. W. Egy, John Metcalf
Marshal	J. D. Smith
Street Commissioner	L. N. B. LaRue
Assessor	E. P. Paine
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

1890.

Mayor	William Schneider
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	John Metcalf, Geo. P. Buell, Ralph Dodge, Albert Jacobs, J. P. Bossert and J. W. Egy
Marshal	J. D. Smith
Street Commissioner	L. N. B. LaRue
Assessor	F. V. D. Bogert
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

1891.

Mayor	L. N. B. LaRue
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	J. P. Bruer, J. W. Bunker, John Metcalf, George P. Buell, Ralph Dodge, Albert Jacobs
Marshal	Frank Young
Street Commissioner	Frank Young
Assessor	F. V. D. Bogert
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

1892.

Mayor	L. N. B. LaRue
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	A. Hanson, A. P. Jacobs, Geo. E. Veeder, J. P. Bruer, J. W. Bunker and Geo. P. Buell
Marshal	Peter Schimmer
Street Commissioner	F. C. Boyd
Assessor	F. V. D. Bogert
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

1893.

Mayor	L. N. B. LaRue
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	John Metcalf, Geo. P. Buell, Louie Wallenberg, Geo Veeder, A. P. Jacobs and A. Hanson
Marshal	Peter Schimmer
Street Commissioner	F. C. Boyd
Assessor	F. V. D. Bogert
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

1894.

Mayor	L. N. B. LaRue
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	Ralph Dodge, Geo. E. Veeder, John Metcalf, Geo. P. Buell, A. Hanson and A. P. Jacobs
Marshal	Will Glazier
Street Commissioner	Geo. C. Jones
Assessor	I. L. Rerick
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

1895.

Mayor	L. N. B. LaRue
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	A. P. Jacobs, A. Hanson, Ralph Dodge, Geo. P. Buell, John Metcalf and Geo. E. Veeder
Marshal	Will Glazier
Street Commissioner	Geo. C. Jones
Assessor	I. L. Rerick
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

1896.

Mayor	L. N. B. LaRue
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	John Metcalf, Geo. P. Buell, Ralph Dodge, Geo. E. Veeder, A. Hanson and A. Pand
Marshal	Tom Tracy
Street Commissioner	L. N. B. LaRue
Assessor	I. L. Rerick
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

1897.

Mayor	Louis Hellman
Recorder	Stephen Harris
Councilmen	Geo. E. Veeder, Ralph Dodge, John Metcalf, Geo. P. Buell A. P. Jacobs and A. Hanson
Marshal	Tom Tracey
Street Commissioner	L. N. B. LaRue
Assessor	I. L. Rerick
Treasurer	J. V. Adkins

SUTHERLAND.

The town of Sutherland is on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad, and is located on section 7 in Waterman township. It was named after the Duke of Sutherland, who was, about the time the town site was located, sort of a guest of the officials of the railroad company, and who were sufficiently in love with his royal highness, to name their town site after him.

The town has a pleasant and business appearance, its places of trade being on several different streets, and to the stranger it has an air of much thrift and prosperity, as well as of promise. The first building erected on the town site was a residence by Mr. Joseph Cowan, in March, 1882. The erection of this building was followed by a store building, built by G. W. Meader, now of Sibley, for a stock of hardware. About this time or soon after Mr. Charles Briggs erected a second hardware store building, in which he placed a stock, and also Mr. A. M. Ciley put up a building for a drug store,

and immediately occupied it upon its completion for that purpose. The Briggs building is now occupied by L. Schwertfeger and he continues the same business. The Ciley building is now occupied by E. Miller with a line of dry goods, boots and shoes, etc. The Meader building is now occupied by Aldred & Hakeman, and is used for the same purpose in the sale of hardware.

The Park hotel of which W. H. Downer is the present landlord, was erected at about the same time, or soon after these buildings previously mentioned by James Reager, and was called the Reager House.

The first general store building was built by D. M. Sheldon. The first building constructed by him was taken by the cyclone which went through Sutherland in June, 1882. After



G. G. BROCK.

the cyclone Mr. Sheldon built again, and after its completion filled it with a general stock of merchandise. About this same time, and before the incoming of the railroad, there was also erected a railroad land office, and a saloon building; several residences, and a few other store buildings also were in process of construction. The construction train laying the rails of the Northwestern railroad, which now passes through

the town, reached the town site in August of that same year. A depot was soon erected, also lumber yards, elevator and coal sheds, etc. In June of that year, 1882, when the town with quite a number of buildings was fairly started, and on the 24th day of that month, there struck the town one of those fearful monsters of the air, a tornado which crossed O'Brien county from the northeast, to the southwest. It

came early in the morning, when people were not much astir, and when many of them were yet in their beds.

It took the Sheldon building before mentioned completely. It blew the front out of the Meader building, turned the Ciley and Briggs building partially around, removed the Reager House partly off of its foundation, and blew the saloon into smithereens. The railroad land office building was blown completely away, also the blacksmith shop and a few other buildings, which completed the destructive results of the tornado. In one of the buildings John Meyers and A. W. Ciley were sleeping quietly, when without warning they were in the midst of the tornado, which landed them in the cellar. The people of the early days of Sutherland were entertained by the Sutherland Dramatic company, of which F. M. McCormack was director, and Geo. F. Colcord, assistant. They also had a lyceum in which were the usual exercises of music, declamations, essays, and debate.

The second year after the town started, the following were substantially its business houses:

- A. Towberman & Son, furniture.
- R. M. Van Horn, blacksmith shop.
- L. W. Fairbank, general store.
- Mrs. A. W. Hoyt, Millinery.
- H. A. Peck, land office.
- Briggs & Cobb, drug store.
- Horstman Bros., general store.
- J. F. Shepard, restaurant.
- L. Schwertfeger, shoe store.
- Vulgamott Bros., meat market.
- J. N. Slick & Co., groceries, boots and shoes.
- Thompson & Porter, lumber office.
- F. E. Farnsworth, restaurant.
- Cleveland & Bark, livery stable.
- S. Gracey, clothing store.
- E. H. Farnsworth, groceries and provisions.
- E. C. Cummings, liveryman.

J. B. Dunn & Co., land office.

Sage & Healy, land office.

D. M. Sheldon & Co., dealers in grain, coal, stock, lumber, etc.

M. E. Hoyt, livery stable.

C. E. Jameson, Cleveland Hotel.

Wm. Kugel, barber shop.*

D. W. Nichols, real estate office.

M. D. Purcell, auctioneer.

J. M. Louthan, physician and surgeon.

J. C. Bonham, homeopathic physician.

Geo. F. Colcord and J. B. Dunn, attorneys.

The Courier at that time was published by Hamilton & Hutton. This comprises the business houses of Sutherland of the early part of 1884.

The Sutherland Courier was started by Harvey Hand, and is further mentioned under the heading, "newspapers."

Sutherland has a public library, which is very much an honor to the town. It is named after Gen. Baker, and is called the Baker library. It was established in Waterman township in 1874, and Mrs. Roma W. Woods is entitled to very much credit, as being one of its principal founders. Through her, selections of a number of volumes were obtained from abroad, and for a while during the "grasshoppers," it was very discouraging to maintain it. In a well written article from the pen of Mrs. Woods in 1884, she says: "Two years of enthusiasm, then a centennial year with its magnificent promise of crops. Alas for the library, also for us all. As the grain was whitening to the harvest, locusts filled the air with silvery brightness, and covered the ground with brown ugliness, destroying the crops entirely.

"Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Doling of Liberty, and Stephen Harris of Primghar, were able to pay their interest that year, and they alone.

The next year the young locusts sprang from every inch of ground.

"In the long winter that followed, our library was a friend indeed. But few could pay their interest, but the books went everywhere. The heights had been reached the second year, and for six years we traveled the low lands. The income of the library was but nominal, a few new books were added each year, and during the fourth year there was sent a box of periodicals from Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Brewster of New York City, also a box containing forty choice books, the gift of Hon. Geo. W. Ells and wife, Hon. Edward Russell and wife of Davenport, Iowa, and Stewart Ells and wife of Moline, Illinois. I am sure these friends have never realized how valuable and timely, were their gifts."

Since the starting of this public library, and since its removal to Sutherland, there have been added many valuable books, and the library now is quite a credit to the town.

In July, 1884, there was organized at Sutherland a hook and ladder company. There was then elected as its foreman, J. N. Slick; first assistant foreman, Dy-

son Brown; second assistant foreman, Thomas Spence; secretary and treasurer, Bert Hamilton.

Fourth of July in 1884 was duly celebrated. Geo. F. Colcord read the Declaration of Independence, and J. B. Dunn de-



SOLDIER'S MONUMENT, HARTLEY, ERECTED BY
GEO. W. SCHEE.

livered an oration. It was a rainy day, so that the afternoon program was carried out with difficulty. During the races Wm. Kelly's horse dropped dead. It was estimated there were 2,000 people in town on that day. The fireworks in the evening were said to be magnificent.

Sutherland's misfortune with fire was November 30, 1884. Towberman & Son's store caught fire on that day about 8 o'clock in the evening, and was completely destroyed altogether, with the goods, and nothing was saved, except a few chairs and bureaus. An adjoining building also burned, which was an agricultural warehouse with the loss of implements of about \$500.

On the 8th day of August, 1885, Sutherland paid its tender tribute to the departed president and great commander, U. S. Grant. The exercises were held at Woods' grove. A procession one-half mile in length, in which were not less than one thousand people, and conspicuous in which were members of the G. A. R. post, marched to the grove. The exercises were opened with Gen. Grant's funeral march, nicely rendered on an organ and a tenor trombone, by Mrs. S. S. Louthan and E. J. Lewis.

J. B. Dunn then introduced E. C. Herrick, the distinguished lawyer of Cherokee, who presented to the audience a most eloquent oration.

During the fifteen years of Sutherland's growth, there has not been any booming of the town, but it has had a gradual and steady growth. Four years after it first started, Adam Towberman took the census of the town, and announced the result in his unique way, reporting that there were, males 206, females 220, total 426; republicans 57, democrats 45; unmarried men (old bachelors) 76; unmarried ladies (old ! ! ! !) 7; Number of old boys who must live alone, or go away for their wives 9.

There was along in these years, in the '80's, considerable grain and stock shipped, showing that Sutherland was a good market. From August, 1885, to February, 1886, there was shipped from this point 457 cars.

In July, 1886, Sutherland had the usual celebration, but owing to Sunday being the 4th, it was held on the 3d. The crowd was estimated at the time at 5,000. Frank Fannon delivered the oration, and the Paullina band and the Hartley band furnished the music. They had the usual entertainment of the ragmuffins, glass ball shooting, horse racing, and with a grand display of fireworks in the evening.

In June, 1887, there was laid the corner stone of the First Methodist church. The occasion was duly celebrated by the town at large, without regard to religious convictions. C. E. Acorn was marshal. A procession was formed consisting of the Paullina band, Knights Templars, Paulina Lodge, I. O. G. T., G. A. R. Post, Sutherland Abiff Lodge A. F. A. M., Sutherland band, Mayor Messer and Orator Dolliver, city council, citizens in carriages, and citizens on foot. The stone was duly laid, but first there was placed in secure masonry, the Bible Discipline of 1884, Minutes of last Conference, Subscription



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HARTLEY.

for church erection, names of officers of the town of Sutherland, trustees, stewards, and building committee, officers of I. O. G. T., officers and members of Hook and Ladder company, officers of the county school board, teachers and scholars, list of officers of Abiff Lodge, A. F. & A. M. and officers of Grand Lodge of Masons. Also a copy of the following

named newspapers: Sutherland Courier, Paullina Times, Hartley Record, Sanborn Pioneer, Sheldon Mail, and North Western Christian Advocate. The oration was by Rev. R. H. Dolliver.

When there was talk of building the Illinois Central railroad from Cherokee to Sioux Falls, it created quite a stir among the people of the town. There was grave apprehension that a rival town would be established a short distance west, making a junction there. A petition was circulated asking the railroad commissioners, to compel the Illinois Central to put in a Y, where the railroad crossed the Northwestern, and after that about thirty of the citizens of the town met the commissioners at the point of intersection, and discussed the demand made upon them. It was stated that the petition would be granted. But after the Illinois Central was built, Sutherland found that it still continued to exist, and thrive, that business still improved, and the population was increasing, so that nothing further was heard of the petition, and no further notice taken of it.

Sutherland has always manifested much public spirit, and when the people of the town took hold of anything in dead earnest it was likely to come, and when opinions were divided, each side would be likely to be heard from.

The O'Brien County Agricultural society, was formed in 1887, and the first fair was held two days, October 5 and 6 of that year. This was the first meeting, the first gathering of products, and the usual fair exhibits. This association is peculiarly Sutherland, as it is confined to that town, and each year the fair is still held. The present officers of the society for 1897 are: W. S. Hitchings, president; E. J. Elliott, vice president; J. B. Murphy, treasurer; L. J. Price, secretary; W. S. Hitchings, H. Cowan, Jr., E. J. Elliott, A. L. Martin, J. B. Murphy, Otto Kirchof, L. D. Cobb, directors.

There was a move made to organize an improvement society, much interest was taken in it by some. This was more than 10 years ago, but it never successfully materialized.

The town has always guarded its finances, and taken proper care of its resources. Like other towns it has received license money from saloons, at times, and again has been without this revenue. The prohibition question has its various vexed phases discussed in Sutherland as elsewhere, with somewhat of the usual bitterness, but this cannot be helped, as upon some questions, men manifest much feeling and determination, and this is one of them. Under the present mulct law, this town has its share of supply in the line of the usual saloon beverages.

In April, 1887, there was started a creamery, under the name of the "Farmers' Co-operative Dairy Association." Incorporation articles were had and published. The first officers were D. A. Innis, president; D. W. Young, vice president; O. C. Adams, secretary; G. W. Nelson, treasurer; and J. Aldinger, H. F. Smith, P. D. F. Fuller were directors. Like many other creameries started by incorporation, this did not seem to thrive. After running one year there was talk of making a cheese factory out of it. In August, 1889, the creamery was destroyed by fire, but was afterwards rebuilt and is now in successful operation.



GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, HARTLEY.

On July 3, 1885, the schools closed their last term in the old school house, and on September 30 of that same year the new school was first used. It came near being burned just previous to occupancy, by some coals rolling from the roof,

where tanners were at work. The coals fell into a pile of shavings below, but the fire was soon extinguished. Prof. Holly and wife were the first teachers in the new building.

The Christian church was dedicated on Sunday, November 8, 1885, by Rev. Fannon. The people felt grateful to Elder, Higbe for the zeal and interest he had taken in the building of the church.

The first literary society was organized December 22, 1885, at which Prof. Holly delivered an opening address. There was elected C. H. Brintnall, president; Mrs. J. E. Baldwin, vice president; Mrs. C. H. Holly, secretary; L. Chesley, treasurer; and Prof. C. H. Holly, critic. The first question for debate was "Resolved That Free Trade Would be Beneficial to this Country." J. B. Dunn and C. E. Achorn wrestled with the affirmative, while E. P. Messer and B. S. Louthan maintained the negative. The negative won. This society continued its meetings through the winter, and among others discussed the question, "That a System of License, Regulating the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors as a Beverage, Would be More Beneficial than Prohibition." When the discussion was reached there was some misunderstanding as to how the question read, one side contending that the "would be" should be "is." They finally went at it, under the "would be" phrase. Geo. F. Colcord and J. H. Wells elaborated the benefits and beauties of the license system, while J. B. Dunn and Rev. N. Wells, insisted upon absolute prohibition, pure and simple. Colcord and Wells, on the affirmative, convinced the judges of the righteousness of their cause, and won the decision. After that, they talked woman's suffrage, national banks, the negro problem and several other knotty questions, and finally landed on the liquor question, which wound up the society for that winter.

On the evening of April 13, 1886, a small sized tornado, visited this section of the county, but seemed to avoid Sutherland. In the county it did some damage. They had another high wind June 14, 1886, which scattered several piles of

boards in Porter & Sieh's lumber yard, and made quite a strain on several buildings. On that same day, in the storm, W. S. Hitchings' large elevator was struck with lightning, but was not damaged much.

Sutherland became metropolitan enough in May, 1886, to indulge in a jail which seems to be a municipal necessity.

The Bank of Sutherland was established in 1882, and the State Bank in 1886. The last named bank was incorporated by W. P. Davis, D. M. Sheldon, C. E. Achorn and W. S. Hitchings, the capital stock being \$25,000; they immediately erected a brick bank building.

The Bank of Sutherland received its charter as a national bank, called the "First National Bank of Sutherland" in January, 1887. The officers of the newly organized bank at its start were: Benj. Thompson, president; James Porter, vice president; C. H. Brintnall, cashier; B. Thompson, C. Longshore, James Porter, N. P. T. Finch, and D. A. Innes. The First Savings Bank of Sutherland was incorporated in February, 1897, by the following named persons, C. E. Achorn, T. B. Bark, A. J. Sieh, S. J. Jordan, C. P. Jordan, H. Kummerfeld, E. F. Jockheck, of whom the following are directors, S. J. Jordan, T. B. Bark, C. E. Achorn, Clay P. Jordan and A. J. Sieh.

An organization intended to advance the interests of Sutherland was formed in November, 1886, with the following named officers: Jas. Porter, president; T. J. Alexander, vice president; J. B. Dunn, secretary; C. W. Brintnall, treasurer;



BRODERS & TAGGE'S STORE, HARTLEY.

C. E. Achorn, Geo. F. Colcord, J. N. Slick, A. F. Horstman, E. P. Messer, executive committee.

Daniel Holbrook Wheeler, an old settler of the county died at Sutherland, December 22, 1886. He was the father of Mrs. Julia W. Burlock and Mrs. Roma W. Woods.

A Womans Relief corps was organized April 6, 1887, and the following were its first officers, Mrs. Agnes Gates, Mrs. Martha Parks, senior vice president; Mrs. Jennie Baldwin, conductor; Mrs. Amy Van Horn, assistant conductor; Miss Mabel Inman, secretary; Mrs. Mary Colcord, treasurer; Mrs. Nellie Nelson, guard; Miss Mame Messer, assistant guard; Mrs. Ada Peck, chaplain. Its present officers are as follows: Maggie Hicks, president; Roma W. Woods, secretary.

The Grand Army of the Republic Post was organized in Sutherland, and still continues to thrive and prosper although some of its members have gone to their long home and others moved away, while new members have been added. The post is named the E. O. C. Ord Post. Without continuing its list of officers we might say, that in January, 1887, there was selected E. P. Messer, commander; F. L. Bidwell, senior vice commander; N. Remington, junior vice commander; George Nelson, quartermaster; C. W. Inman, adjutant; Geo. F. Colcord, officer of the day; Thomas Steward, chaplain, E. T. Cleveland, officer of the guard; E. W. McOmber, surgeon; R. VanHorn, quarter master sergeant; J. B. Dunn, sergeant major; and W. J. Stewart, sentinel.

A hook and ladder company was the first fire organization, under the name of "Rescue Hook and Ladder company." This was recognized by the town council as a fire company, in May, 1887, and re-organized with Thos. Spence, foreman; D. C. O'Brien, assistant foreman; A. F. Horstman, secretary; and J. C. Briggs, treasurer. Its present officers are as follows: J. R. Carroll, chief; L. J. Price, foreman of hook and ladder; John Hicks, assistant foreman of hook and ladder; John Voss, foreman of the engine; E. C. Seeley, assistant foreman of the engine.

Dr. John M. Louthan, for some time a resident of Sutherland, a good physician and a kindly, humane man, died December 11, 1888.

The town was incorporated in 1883 with officers elected to hold until the general election in March, 1884, at which there was elected:

Mayor	W. S. Hitchings
Recorder	C. H. Brintnall
Treasurer	A. M. Ciley
Assessor	C. W. Iman
Trustees	A. Horstman, J. M. Slick, A. C. Bliss, C. W. Briggs, H. C. Hoagland, C. P. Gracey
Street commissioner	C. Nelson

1885.

The 1885 election resulted in

Mayor	A. M. Ciley
Recorder	Bert Hamilton
Treasurer	L. J. Price
Street Commissioner	R. Cummings
Councilmen	C. W. Brintnall, L. W. Fairbank,
full term; C. W. Briggs, Geo. F. Colcord, short term	

1886.

Mayor	J. C. Bonham
Councilmen	W. S. Hitchings, Wm. Kelsey, G. C. Shultz
Recorder	Bert Hamilton
Treasurer	L. J. Price
Assessor	Thos. Spence
Street Commissioner	Robert Cummings

1888.

Mayor	W. P. Davis
Councilmen	James Parks, J. C. Briggs
Assessor	C. M. Ciley
Recorder	Bert Hamilton
Treasurer	J. C. Bonham
Street Commissioner	R. Cummings

The records are somewhat incomplete so that 'we will not undertake to give accurately the list of all officers since the above named year. But the present officers for 1897 are as follows:

Mayor	J. C. Briggs
Councilmen	W. S. Hitchings, G. K. Shultz, J. L. Jockeck, E. O. Woodbury, H. L. Chesley
Marshal	
Treasurer ..	Adolph Sieh
Street Commissioner	James Hicks
Recorder	J. L. Worden

Upon examination of the mayor's docket, if all have been punished that ought to be, the town has been reasonably peaceable. There are about twenty-eight cases on the docket, most of which are for being drunk and disorderly, two for using obscene language, and one for using profane language on the public street.

An early resident of the county, C. E. Achorn, has resided in Sutherland several years. He has been a prominent business man of the county, came when a boy from Boston, Mass., and has since become a doctor in osteopathy, with an office at his former home in Boston.

W. S. Hitchings, is also an early resident of the county and now one of the prominent citizens of Sutherland.

CHURCH DIRECTORY OF SUTHERLAND.

First M. E. church, H. B. Green, pastor.

Church of Christ, W. F. Moore, pastor.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

M. W. OF A.

W. E. Rockwell, consul.

C. H. Jenner, clerk.

A. F. & A. M.

J. B. Murphy, W. M.

C. H. Jenner, secretary.

K. OF P.

J. R. Carroll, C. C.

H. L. Chesley, K. of R. and S.

I. O. G. T.

Andrew E. Knutson, C. T.

Fred S. Knott, secretary.

I. O. O. F.

F. L. Price, N. G.

E. L. Dunning, secretary.

DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH.

R. L. Smith, N. G.

J. Y. Cartano, secretary.

W. R. C.

Maggie Hicks, president.

Roma W. Woods, secretary.

IOWA LEGION OF HONOR.

A. L. Martin, president.

W. A. Brady, secretary.

The present business houses of Sutherland are as follows:

D. M. Sheldon & Co., dry goods and groceries.

D. Hockert & Son, dry goods and groceries.

E. Miller, dry goods and groceries.

E. L. Schwerdtfeger, hardware.

Will Frazier, barber shop.

B. S. Louthan, physician.

O. Gleason, confectionery.

Gus Schultz, billiard hall.

Charles Peaker, dry goods and groceries.

L. J. Price, drugs.

James Briggs, harness shop.

James Hakeman, hardware.

F. B. Bark, implement company.

H. A. Worden, millinery and confectionery.

Sutherland State Bank, W. P. Davis, president.

Geo. F. Colcord, lawyer.

J. R. Carroll, harness shop.
C. F. McCormack, lawyer.
E. O. Woodbury, agricultural implements.
Ed. Lucas, proprietor New Park hotel.
A. F. Meade, livery.
J. L. Kroesen, proprietor Commercial House.
A. J. Sieh, lumber and coal.
J. H. Queal & Co., lumber and coal.
P. S. Stearns, veterinary surgeon.
William Johnson, saloon.
Robert Nelson, meat market.
James Reager, restaurant.
Adams Bros., creamery.
John Jenner, saloon.
D. W. Pratt, blacksmith.
William Frear, wagon shop.
George Brawders, livery.
William Ferguson, blacksmith.
J. S. Hockert, grocer.
J. L. Kroesen, proprietor Sutherland Review.
F. B. Bark, president National bank.
Barmore & Pickerell, druggists.
C. B. Warwick, barber shop.
Misses Hinkley & Speer, millinery.
William Kelsey, harness shop.
W. H. Bloom, proprietor of Courier.
J. N. Slick, dry goods and groceries.
Kerchhof & Jewws, meat market.
Albert Boyles, restaurant.
S. Innes, furniture and undertaking.
Henry Gutts, shoemaker.
E. W. Parker, physician.
William Doyle, photograph gallery.
C. L. Taylor, well driller.
T. J. Kennedy, painter and paper hanger.
J. G. Hayes, painter and paper hanger.

H. L. Chesley, postmaster.
James Rowland, marshal.
B. A. Morrow, dentist.
D. C. O'Brien, drayman.
A. W. Sterling, drayman.
J. C. Dulin, drayman.

HARTLEY.

Hartley is situated on the northeast quarter of section 32, in Hartley township, and was named after one of the railroad surveyors. It came into existence by reason of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad crossing the county, and was started in 1879. Its first depot, as usual in such cases, was a box car, which however, soon after gave way to a substantial structure. George Titus was the first depot agent, and the first postmaster.

The first store in town was that of J. S. Finster and W. S. Fuller, under the firm name of Finster & Fuller. The next store was by Pumph-



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING, HARTLEY.

rey & Chrysler, who erected the building on Main street now occupied by Wheelock & Co. Then followed a grocery store and a saloon combined by N. Plawson. Frank Matott and

W. J. Guenther opened the first saloon and billiard hall. Mr. Guenther still remains in business there.

The first hotel in town was opened by J. K. McAndrew in a building near the depot, which was afterwards run by Mr. Fox. Mr. McAndrew afterwards moved the building on

Main street, and built an addition to it. He gave it the name Commercial House and again became the landlord. This hotel was afterwards taken down and upon the same site was erected the Williams Bros. brick block. During the winter of 1879 and 1880, money was scarce, and many of the incoming settlers were hard up, but fuel must be had. The Milwaukee company had a coal shed at Hartley filled with coal, and it is certainly hard for a man, with little ones shiver-



M. E. CHURCH, HARTLEY.

ing at home without fuel, and no money to buy it with, and no credit, to resist the temptation of appropriating from a pile of plenty, and transporting to a hearthstone where there was none. Many a sack went from the coal shed to the fireside, and many a heart was made glad with railroad coal. Sometimes, however, a fellow may get caught, and the expectations of a safe trip may result in exposure.

One fellow secured a sack full under cover of night, and

started for home. It had thawed some that day, and in crossing a ditch, he fell, and landed on his back in the water with the sack of coal across his neck, in such a way that he was actually held down without being able to get up, in spite of every effort he made to do so. There was nothing left but hollow for help, which he did, and attention in that way being attracted to him, he was rescued. Silence was secured by a plentiful supply of beer to the rescuers, and the company were



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, HARTLEY.

none the wiser for the mishap. Some others had narrow escapes from being caught, and in cases of extreme need, it raises quite an ethical question as well as a legal one, whether or not with plenty of fuel around, one shall suffer and shiver

with the cold, even if the fuel is not his own. At one time in the history of the town, a Methodist preacher was captured by the saloon element. He was poorly paid by his church, as the church at that time was poor itself. The preacher being without the necessities of life at home, made application to a farmer near town for help, which was freely given. While in town that evening the farmer told the circumstances in Frank Matott's saloon, as Frank was treasurer of the society; twenty dollars was raised at once, and soon the preacher's house was liberally supplied, but the farmer was raked over the coals by the church, the preacher was justified, but soon resigned. He preached, however, to the other crowd and was paid forty-five dollars a month, and the sound of the gospel went out among the sheep outside the fold.

Milo Silverthorn soon started a livery stable, David Gano a hardware, also a meat market. H. J. Guenther came all the way from New York with a stock of boots and shoes, and soon the footwear wants of the people were thoroughly supplied. Hartley remained unshaven except that each did for himself, until Gid Clausen opened up a barber shop, and according to Claud Charles the manner of operation was somewhat peculiar. Claud says the barber outfit consisted of a bar of White Russian soap, a razor and the leg of a boot for a strap. The barber chair consisted of a bench, upon which each customer was placed flat on his back, when the barber would cover his face with lather from the White Russian soap, then straddled him as a man does a horse, and the shaving commenced.

In the second story of the old building in the rear of Broders & Tagge's brick store, was started the first school in town taught by O. M. Shonkwiler. The ceiling was so low, that Shonkwiler occasionally bumped his head, and under ordinary circumstances, the teacher generally takes it out of some refractory pupil with every bump, but it is remembered by the surviving scholars, that even with these low roofed difficulties, the teacher preserved his equanimity.

The Hartley State bank was started in December, 1886, by Frank Patch, John W. Cravens, Mary E. Colby and Freeman R. Patch.

The German Evangelical church was dedicated on Sunday, November 24, 1889. The presiding elder preached in the morning, and Rev. S. Sleabler in the afternoon. The remaining indebtedness, \$600, was raised at the dedication.

The Presbyterian church was dedicated December 15, 1889. Rev. Bailey of Cedar Falls conducted the services. The Methodist church was fully organized in 1884, with their first services held in the depot, and Elder Groom as pastor.

The first bank started in Hartley was in 1882, by Milo Silverthorn, W. H. Eaton, Frank Patch and Mart Shea.



PARK HOTEL, HARTLEY.

Hartley is an excellent trading point, and does a large amount of business, and as a grain and stock shipping point, it makes a wonderful showing at the end of each year. It has several men who are prominent in the county, and altogether it is an enterprising and moral town. In its center there stands an imposing monument, upon the summit of which is one in the garb of a soldier. This monument was donated by Geo.

W. Schee and his wife, and dedicated to the old soldiers. Hartley is progressive, and is looking forward to metropolitan conveniences.

There are five organized churches in Hartley. The Methodist Episcopal church is the oldest, and has the largest membership. Its pastor is Rev. F. W. Ginn, and its Sabbath school superintendent is M. J. Young. There is also an Epworth league, which is well attended.

The Seven Day Adventists have a church building, which by way of its denominational faith, has its services on Saturday. Its membership is not large in numbers, but what there are, are ardent in their faith.

The Presbyterian church has a handsome building and a successful Sabbath school, with Rev. J. C. Linton, pastor.

The German Evangelical church has an elegant church building, and a large membership. Its pastor is the Rev. Geo. Youngblood.

The Catholic church has quite a membership, but no building as yet. They hold occasional services at Miller's hall, under the leadership of Father Martin, of Sanborn.

CIVIC SOCIETIES.

Of these there are the A. F. & A. M., I. O. O. F., Rebekah Degree, W. R. C., Iowa Legion of Honor, M. W. A., Jr. O. U. A. M., Eastern Star, K. of P. and G. A. R.

The present officers in the Masonic lodge are: Frank Patch, W. M.; W. J. Davis, S. W.; J. W. Hyman, J. W.; H. J. Guenther, Treas.; Frank Fee, Sec.; F. G. Moranda, Tyler.

The present officers of the Knights of Pythias are, E. L. Kay, C. E.; W. H. McPherson, V. C. M.; E. W. Richards, K. of R. and S.; E. T. Broders, M. F.; Amos Teakle, P.

The present officers of the G. A. R. are as follows: W. S. Fuller, Commander; Robt. Ayers, S. V. C.; C. Robinson, J. V. C.; Sam Boyce, Surgeon; L. Miller, Q. M.; W. H. Eaton, Adjutant; J. S. Webster, Chaplain; A. DeLong, Officer of the Day; J. E. Holford, Officer of the Guard; E. B. Messer, S. M.

The town officers of Hartley from the incorporation to the present, are as follows:

1888.

Mayor	E. B. Messer
Recorder	W. H. Eaton
Councilmen	Samuel Smith, L. C. Green, Q. N.
Drake, S. H. McMasters, L. Mosher, W. J. Lorshbaugh	
Marshal and Street Commissioner	J. M. Herron
Treasurer	W. S. Fuller
Assessor	E. Jefferys

1889.

Mayor	E. B. Messer
Recorder	W. H. Eaton
Councilmen	W. J. Lorshbaugh, S. H. McMaster, J. S.
Webster, John W. Cravens, J. M. Yoeman, J. A. Bolton	
Marshal and Street Commissioner	A. C. Wilson
Treasurer	W. S. Fuller
Assessor	E. Jefferys

1890.

Mayor	Frank Kelley
Recorder	Frank E. Fee
Councilmen	I. N. Drake, Sam Smith, W. J.
Lorshbaugh, J. S. Webster, John Cravens John Yeoman	
Marshal and Street Commissioner	I. M. Silverthorn
Treasurer	Frank Patch
Assessor	E. Jefferys

1891.

Mayor	Frank Kelley
Recorder	W. H. Eaton
Treasurer	Frank Patch
Councilmen	R. A. Woodward, C. A. Sims,
J. K. McAndrew, I. N. Drake, J. M. Yeoman, Sam Smith	
Marshal and Street Commissioner	D. McDonald
Assessor	A. L. Taylor

1892.

Mayor	L. Miller
Recorder	W. H. Eaton

Councilmen.....J. E. Wheelock, J. P. Grose,
 Sam Smith, R. A. Woodward, I. N. Drake, C. A. Sims
 Marshal and Street Commissioner.....Wm. Tennant
 Treasurer.....Frank Patch
 Assessor.....A. J. Taylor

1893.

Mayor.....W. B. Waldo
 Recorder.....W. H. Eaton
 Treasurer.....Frank Hatch
 Councilmen.....Samuel Smith, S. H. McMaster, J. E.
 Wheelock, C. A. Sims, R. A. Woodward, J. P. Grose
 Marshal and Street Commissioner.....Wm. Tennant
 Assessor.....W. B. Waldo

1894.

Mayor.....L. Miller
 Recorder.....Chas. McElwain
 Councilmen.....E. E. Hall, H. C. Burris, H. L.
 Lamson, J. E. Wheelock, R. A. Woodward, J. P. Grose
 Marshal.....Wm. Tennant
 Assessor.....W. B. Waldo
 Treasurer.....Frank Patch
 Street Commissioner.....John Holford

1895.

Mayor.....W. B. Waldo
 Recorder.....C. H. Colby
 Councilmen.....Peter Sitler, H. L. Lamson,
 H. C. Burris, J. T. Shinkle, S. H. McMaster, E. E. Hall
 Marshal.....John Kneen
 Street Commissioner.....S. H. McMaster
 Treasurer.....Frank Patch
 Assessor.....W. B. Waldo

1896.

Mayor.....E. Kelley
 Recorder.....Chas. McElwain
 Councilmen.....E. B. Messer, Chas. E. Walter,
 E. M. Maurer, Peter Sitler, H. C. Burris, E. E. Hall

Marshal and Street Commissioner John Kneen
 Treasurer Frank Patch
 Assessor W. W. Smith

1897.

Mayor E. Kelley
 Recorder Chas. McElwain
 Assessor W. W. Smith
 Treasurer Frank Patch
 Councilmen H. C. Burris, Peter Sitler,
 E. M. Maurer, E. B. Messer, Chas. E. Walter, E. E. Hall
 Marshal and Street Commissioner Harry Hooker

HARTLEY CIVIC SOCIETIES.

A. F. & A. M.

Frank Patch, W. M.
 Will Davis, S. W.
 J. M. Hayman, J. W.
 H. J. Guenther, Treas.
 Frank E. Fee, Sec.
 F. S. Moranda, Tyler.

K. OF P.

E. L. Ray, C. M.
 W. H. McPherson, V. C. M.
 E. E. Richards, K. of R. and S.
 E. F. Broders, M. F.
 Amos Teakle.

G. A. R.

W. S. Fuller, Com.
 Robt. Ayers, S. V. C.
 C. Robinson, J. V. C.
 Sam Boyce, Surgeon.
 L. Miller, Q. M.
 W. H. Eaton, Adj.
 J. S. Webster, Chaplain.
 A. De Long, Officer of the Day.

J. E. Holford, Officer of the Guard.

E. B. Messer, S. M.

I. O. O. F.

W. J. Teakle, N. G.

A. A. Bisbee, V. G.

D. Maass, Sec.

E. N. Mayer, Treas.

D. A. Perry, Chaplain.

C. E. West, P. G.

The business interests of Hartley at the present time are represented by the following:

D. W. Bryant, hardware.

M. E. Tennant, general store.

Ebright & Hanson, general store.

Broders & Tagge, general store.

Williams Bros., general store.

C. D. Killam, furniture and undertaking.

F. E. Fee, jewelry and musical instruments.

Mrs. M. E. Scott, millinery.

Gross & Kass, millinery.

Mrs. M. C. Ernst, racket store including millinery.

Durrenberger & Albert, harness shop.

Union Tire Heater Co.

W. W. Thatcher, paper hanger and painter.

C. A. Simms, butter and egg depot.

D. T. Stewart physician and druggist.

A. R. McCready, druggist.

Berry Bros., restaurant.

John Hopfe, city bakery.

C. Herbst, proprietor of city scales.

Spencer Grain Co., A. Fahlenkamp, manager.

McMichael & Son, elevator, F. B. Rich, manager.

I. N. Drake, dealer in grain.

Logan & Sleeper, branch of Prairie Queen Mills, Mr.
Lamson.

Romeo Tracey, house mover.

Adam Boyce, house mover.

L. J. Uriell, well driller.

L. M. Moranda meat market.

P. Nelson, meat market.

S. C. Wade, dentist.

Hartley Lumber Co., J. S. Webster, manager.

John Yeoman, John Gross, M. J. Young, O. M. Shonkwiler, the Northwestern Land Co.

Danskinn & Watts, real estate.

Jed Shinkle, real estate.

Sam Saunders, real estate.

W. A. Compton, real estate.

W. H. Bordewiek, real estate.

J. W. Walter, attorney.

W. P. Briggs, attorney.

Nick Mousler, blacksmith.

Peter Sitler, blacksmith.

G. H. Ward, blacksmith.

Chris Nelson, blacksmith.

Will Scott, livery.

James Bean, drayman.

Ed. Johnson, drayman.

Wm. Dow, drayman.

Joe McChane; farm implements.

W. H. McPherson, manager of the Floete Lumber Co.

Will Wellman, manager of the John Paul Lumber Co.

Dell Smith, barber shop.

S. Grosser, barber shop.

J. L. Taylor & Co., implement dealers.

H. J. Guenther, shoe store.

Hans Harder, shoe shop.

Emil Guenther, saloon.

Arens & Capesius, saloon.

C. C. Collett, veterinary surgeon.

J. R. Tibbetts, veterinary surgeon.

E. M. Maurer, stone mason.
Ed. Vaughin, stone mason.
Thos. Bowes, stone mason.
S. L. Young, proprietor Hartley nursery.
Chas. Hopfe, auctioneer.
Henry Reinhart, auctioneer.
C. E. West, carpenter.
J. W. Conaway, physician.
G. W. Boot, physician.
D. A. Fletcher, physician.
Allen Crossan, Hartley Herald.
F. R. Lock, land, loans and insurance.
Dorr Miller, hardware,
L. A. Pauloo, merchant tailor.
L. Miller, justice of the peace.
E. Kelley, drayman.
Claude Charles, Hartley Journal.

PRIMGHAR.

Primghar is laid out on the southeast quarter of section 36 in Summit township, and its additions reach out into adjoining sections. It is the county seat, and is in the geographical center of the county. The town was laid out in the fall of 1872, and until April, 1873, the stakes marking its town site, were waiting in mute silence for coming events. The first building erected on the town site was in April, 1873, by C. F. Albright who hauled his lumber from Sheldon, and erected a building which he used for a hotel. Mr. Albright opened his hotel on the 16th day of May of that year. He is still in possession of his hotel register of that first year, which is somewhat mutilated, but still contains the names of a large number of guests. The first name on the register under date of May 16, 1873, is that of S. C. Mitchell, and under that same date are the following further names:

F. D. Mitchell, T. J. Mitchell, D. C. Chapman, E. C. Foscett, Capt. R. C. Tift.

As it is somewhat of a curiosity, the following further names are on the register in a month or two following:

J. T. Stearns, C. F. Butterfield, A. J. Brock, Benj. Hutchinson.

During that year of 1873, we find the name of Richard Thomas, M. G. McClellan, L. C. Green, A. Towerman, L. G. Healey, B. F. McCormack, Harley Day, A. J. Smith, Ralph Dodge, Jas. Wykoff, Geo. Hill, Albert McClellan, Addison Oliver, H. A. Sage, George M. Rising, A. B. Chrysler, G. A. McOmber, O. M. Barrett, Charley Allen, Wm. Fuller, H. C. Kellogg, W. Palen, Geo. Boutelle, R. M. Boyd, C. Longshore, Wm. Virgil, L. B. Raymond, R. G. Allen, J. R. Pumphrey, James Roberts, Hirman Nash, E. F. Parkhurst, Wm. Purcell, Ed. C. Brown, E. T. Parker, Geo. W. Schee, R. G. Ewers, W. C. Butterfield, Orren Gowen, Warren Walker, Chas. McElwain, Orren Finch, J. A. Brown, Robt. Boyd, D. R. Barmore, J. J. Hartenbower, W. E. Welch, J. C. Doling, A. J. Edwards, E. A. Woodruff, W. H. Knepper, James Rowland, C. S. Stewart, Paul Cassily, Dan Moffit, I. L. Rerrick, C. E. Van Epps, Thomas Holmes, B. B. Wood, Geo. Ioude, Theo. Lemaster, A. J. Donovan, John Christiany, Charles Slack, Wm. Baldwin, W. H. Woods, E. W. Bache, R. J. Chase, Sioux City; John Butler, J. G. Arbuckle, S. S. Bradley, and N. C. Lane.



W. H. BAILEY.

This hotel building was afterwards added to and enlarged, and was kept by Mr. Albright until the fall of 1874. He was

then succeeded by J. W. Walters. The old court house building was afterwards made a part of this hotel building, which continued as a hotel until the fall of 1895, the last landlord being M. A. Durham. The building was taken away in three parts in 1896, each part now constituting a separate building. While Mr. Albright was erecting his hotel building, there was also being constructed the pioneer store building by W. C. Green, also an office by J. R. Pumphrey, and the residence building by A. H. Willits. After Mr. Green had up the frame of his store building, a cyclone came along, which blew it away, but it was immediately afterwards rebuilt. The terrified few that were in town during this cyclone, gathered in Mr. Albright's house, and expected every moment to go with that building, but there was no other damage except to Mr. Green's building. The county records and county offices were moved over in the summer of 1873, from old O'Brien, the removal of the county seat having been voted upon, and changed to Primghar, at the general election in 1872. The county officers first occupied the old Paine store building, which was moved to Primghar for that purpose, and used until the fall of 1873, when a court house building was erected on the present court house square. Mr. Green moved his stock of goods from old O'Brien, and occupied his building as soon as it was completed. Mr. Willits also moved his paper, the O'Brien County Pioneer, first published in his residence until the building was completed. The Methodist church people were the first to hold religious services in the town, which were held for a while at the Albright hotel, and afterwards in the court house building, until they erected a church building, which was in 1880. The first trustees of this church were J. R. Pumphrey, B. F. McCormack and W. C. Green. These parties continued as trustees until their proclivities for dancing, and other worldly amusements were considered as in antagonism to true religious progress and conviction, when others succeeded them.

The town celebrated its starting on June 13, 1873, by hav-

ing what was called a "Calico Hop" at the W. C. Green's store building before he moved in. Some of the parties in attendance and who took part in the festivities with their ladies were W. C. Green, A. J. Brock, Geo. Hill, H. D. Palen, Jas. Wykoff, David Palen, B. C. Donovan, J. T. Stearns, L. C. Green, F. E. Wyman, David Algyer, James Rowland, J. W. Kelley, John Nugent, James Magee, J. C. Murry.

The cyclone which crossed the county in 1882 did some damage in Primghar. It blew away the Methodist church, which was afterwards rebuilt. Quite a number of other buildings were blown away. The residence of Editor Bundy lost its roof, and the damage to the town after the cyclone was considerable.

In 1879, W. C. Green sold out his stock of goods to J. R. Pumphrey and A. B. Chrysler, who conducted the business under the firm name of Pumphrey & Chrysler.

When Sanborn started in 1878, about forty buildings were moved from Primghar to Sanborn.

The name Primghar, was coined from the first letter of the surname of several parties interested in the early starting of the town. The names will be seen from the following which was published at the time.

Pumphrey, the treasurer drives the first nail,
 Roberts the donor is quick on the trail,
 Inman dips slyly the first letter in,
 "McCormack adds M which makes the full Prim,
 Green, thinking of groceries gives them the G,
 Hayes drops them an H without asking a fee,
 Albright the joker with his jokes all at par,
 Rerick brings up the rear and crowns all Primghar.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PRIMGHAR.

Some fellow from the east striking out for Primghar with a yoke of oxen, was afraid he would forget the name, so he named one ox Prim, and the other Ghar.

W. H. Bailey of Primghar, a son of P. R. Bailey, is a very competent stenographer and typewriter, and a young man of irreproachable character and habits. We mention him thus, because he has done all the scribe work pertaining to the preparation of this history, also has gathered many facts, and all his work has been done faithfully and well.



PUTNAM'S LIVERY BARN, PRIMGHAR.

Capt. R. C. Tifft, mentioned elsewhere as an early resident of the county, has charge of the court house, and everything in detail is looked after with the utmost care, although sometimes there is an attempt on the part of county officers to innovate upon his jurisdiction. The captain has been a sailor,

and had charge of a ship before he was of age. County Auditor Conn was in the practice of law at Hartley, before his election, and was county attorney one term. He is a very competent and efficient officer, and with the assistance of his deputy, Mr. Wheaton, the office is admirably managed. F. L. Herrick, elsewhere mentioned as an old settler, is county recorder, and all patrons of the office have ascertained, that he is the right man for the place. Scott Martin, although a young man, is an excellent clerk of the court. He is accommodating, and the duties required of him in the office, are well performed. C. R. West is a good treasurer, his books are well kept, and the money of the county is safe in his hands. Sheriff Carter has filled the office long enough, to convince the people that everything required of him is well done, and nothing neglected; his deputy, Morgan, resides in Primghar, and another deputy, Geo. Hudson, resides at Sheldon, both of whom are good officers.

Geo. W. Schee, who is an old settler, resides in Primghar. He has accumulated considerable property, has been a member of the Iowa legislature, auditor of the county, and has exercised much public spirit, in his donation of flags to the school districts, which now float over the school houses of the county, in the gift of school libraries, and also in other commendable ways.

Primghar has many enterprising men, who are a credit to the town. It is the only town in the county without a saloon, so that its people are free from the habit of drinking, or they must go elsewhere to do their imbibing.

Primghar was incorporated in 1888. The first officers of the town, and the succeeding officers are as follows:

Mayor C. F. Albright

Councilmen E. W. Shuck, J. L. E. Peck, G. R.

Slocum, G. W. Doyle, E. L. Ballou and W. S. Rosecrans

Recorder J. A. Smith

Assessor F. B. Royce

Justice of the Peace C. S. Cooper

Street Commissioner	Ed C. Dean
Treasurer	F. E. Wade
Marshal	Thos. McMann

1889.

Mayor	C. F. Albright
Councilmen	W. A. Rosencrans, C. R. Slocum
	G. W. Doyle, E. W. Shuck, E. L. Ballou, J. L. E. Peck
Recorder	J. A. Smith
Assessor	F. B. Royce
Justice of the Peace	C. S. Cooper
Street Commissioner	John Manning
Treasurer	Henry Rerick
Marshal	Thos. McMann

1890.

Mayor	F. A. Turner
Councilmen	E. W. Shuck, G. R. Slocum, G.
	W. Doyle, J. L. E. Peck, W. A. Rosecrans, E. L. Ballou
Recorder	J. S. Nye
Assessor	H. O. Smith
Justice of the Peace	C. S. Cooper
Street Commissioner	John Manning
Treasurer	Henry Rerick
Marshal	Thos. McMann

1891.

Mayor	W. H. Noyes
Councilmen	E. W. Shuck, G. R. Slocum, G. W.
	Doyle, J. L. E. Peck, W. A. Rosecrans, Henry Goodman
Recorder	J. A. Smith
Assessor	F. B. Royce
Justice of the Peace	C. S. Cooper
Street Commissioner	Matthew Metcalf, Jr
Treasurer	Henry Rerick
Marshal	C. F. Albright

1892.

Mayor	S. A. Carter
Councilmen	J. F. Boyer, C. S. Cooper, Henry
	Goodman, E. J. English, J. L. E. Peck, Joseph Metcalf

Recorder	J. S. Nye
Assessor	F. L. Herrick
Justice of the Peace	D. Algyer
Street Commissioner	Matthew Metcalf, Jr
Treasurer	Henry Rerick
Marshal	C. F. Albright

1893.

Mayor	F. C. Whitehouse
Councilmen	J. F. Boyer, C. S. Cooper, Henry Goodman, E. J. English, J. L. E. Peck. Joseph Metcalf
Recorder	J. S. Nye
Assessor	F. L. Herrick
Justice of the Peace	D. Algyer
Street Commissioner	Thos. McMann
Treasurer	C. H. Slocum
Marshal	C. F. Albright

1894.

Mayor	F. C. Whitehouse
Councilmen	Henry Goodman, Jos. Metcalf C. S. Cooper, J. L. E. Peck, E. J. English, J. F. Boyer
Recorder	F. L. Herrick
Assessor	Geo. R. Whitmer
Justice of the Peace	D. Algyer
Street Commissioner	Thos. McMann
Treasurer	C. H. Slocum
Marshal	Thos. McMann

1895.

Mayor	F. C. Whitehouse
Councilmen	Wm. Archer, E. J. English, Henry Williams, J. F. Boyer, J. L. E. Peck, Henry Goodman
Recorder	F. C. Wheaton
Assessor	Geo. Whitmer
Justice of the Peace	D. Algyer
Street Commissioner	Thos. McMann
Treasurer	C. H. Slocum
Marshal	Thos. McMann

1896.

Mayor	J. L. E. Peck
Councilmen	J. F. Boyer, H. O. Williams, Henry Goodman, Joseph Metcalf, Wm. Archer, Thos. Gravenor
Recorder	F. C. Wheaton
Assessor	Geo. R. Whitmer
Justice of the Peace	D. Algyer
Treasurer	C. H. Slocum
Marshal	Geo. Lampert

1897.

Mayor	J. L. E. Peck
Councilmen	Henry Rerick, J. P. Knox, Wm. Archer, H. L. Williams, Thos. Pravenor, J. F. Boyer
Recorder	F. C. Wheaton
Assessor	Geo. R. Whitmer
Justice of the Peace	D. Algyer
Street Commissioner	Willis Chesshire
Treasurer	C. H. Slocum
Marshal	Geo. Lampert

The present business men of Primghar are as follows:

Williams Bros., general store.

Joseph Renoldson, hardware.

Clements & Rosecrans, dry goods, groceries, boots
and shoes.

J. A. King, groceries and millinery.

Williams Bros., drug store, (in charge of F. J. Dam-
mon.)

E. C. Proper, jewelry.

J. A. Carmichael, harness shop.

Perley & Co., druggists.

M. S. Metcalf, meat market.

Williams Bros., meat market, (in charge of Ed Steep-
leton.)

Mary and Ocea Metcalf, millinery.

Gus Strandberg, merchant tailor.

M. H. Rooney & D. B. Harrington, barbers.

- W. J. Semmons, general store.
Murry & Co., groceries.
Wm. Archer, cashier of Savings Bank. Wm. Briggs,
president.
G. R. Whitmer, president of Farmers' Bank. R.
Hinman, cashier.
C. H. Slocum, president of National Bank. G. R.
Slocum, cashier.
J. S. Nye, hardware.
P. Manderville, confectionery and racket store.
J. P. Ingalls, Star restaurant.
Morrow & Younger, proprietors of City Creamery.
Chas. Gray, feed and exchange.
Charles Redchar, shoemaker.
C. H. Winterble, loan and insurance.
Manford Rerick, painter and paper hanger.
E. C. Dean, painter and paper hanger.
C. O. Cookingham, painter and paper hanger.
Frank Bowles, contractor and builder.
Ed McNary, contractor and building.
James Metcalf, contractor and builder.
Henry Kinderfather, contractor and builder.
John Manning, dray line.
Geo. Lampert, dray and express.
Thos. McMann, dray line.
J. H. Wolf, proprietor of Bell.
R. J. Thomas, livery.
W. J. Bruce & Co., lumber and coal.
C. W. Putnam, livery.
Thos. Patton, lumber and coal. Managed by J. P.
Knox.
Achorn Elevator Co., managed by J. E. Stott.
Williams Bros., elevator.
J. P. Winter, proprietor Grand Hotel.
J. R. Millard, proprietor Commercial Hotel.
C. F. Albright, land agent.

Dr. E. T. Holt, dentist.

Beers & Moothart, blacksmiths.

Joe Glenn, blacksmith.

Geo. N. Close, real estate.

Geo. J. North, blacksmith and justice of the peace.

William Rowland, billiard hall.

Geo. Bent, real estate.

Dr. W. J. Birkofer, physician.

Dr. W. O. Bradley, dentist.

E. H. McElhose, photographer.

Mr. H. G. Geister, farm machinery.

A. E. Hurd, proprietor City restaurant.

Andrew Farran, racket store.

A. J. Beebe, physician.

J. Rice, stock buyer.

F. E. Brown, physician.

P. R. Bailey, attorney at law.

Peck, Arthurholt & Ingham, law, lands and loans.

O. H. Montzheimer, lawyer and collector.

David Alger, attorney and justice of the peace.

King & Stearns, law and land.

J. F. Boyer, abstractor.

The postmasters from the first up to the present time are as follows: W. C. Green, A. H. Willits, W. J. Lorshbaugh, J. M. Long, Geo. J. Clark, W. J. Semmons.

There are three church buildings in Primghar, one of which is the Methodist Episcopal, of which Rev. E. G. Keith is the pastor. This denomination put up the first church building in town.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This church is presided over by Rev. D. E. Skinner, Rev. J. C. Stoddard was pastor of the church for some time.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

This church building was erected in 1896 and at this writing has no pastor.

CIVIC SOCIETIES.

I. O. O. F.

The Odd Fellows meet in the Bell block. The present officers are as follows:

J. Saunders, N. G.
A. J. White, V. G.
S. A. Carter, R. Sec'y.
Clarence Ingham, P. Sec'y.
Albert Kane, Treasurer.
Geo. J. Clark, Chaplain.

A. F. & A. M.

There is also an A. F. & A. M. whose present officers are as follows:

J. E. Scott, W. M.
J. F. Boyer, Sr. W.
W. S. Castledine, Jr. W.
W. J. Semmons, Sr. D.
John Rodgers, Jr. D.
C. F. Albright, Tyler.

MODERN WOODMAN.

Following are the officers of the Modern Woodman:

C. F. Albright, V. C.
Isaac Clements, W. A.
E. J. English, E. B.
F. L. Herrick, Clerk.
F. J. Dammon, Recorder.
E. C. Foskett, Watchman.
W. S. Armstrong, Sentry.
Geo. P. Perley, Physician.

G. A. R.

The G. A. R. is at present under command of the following officers:

F. A. Gere, Com.
H. Goodman, V. C.

E. T. Holt, Jr. V. C.

S. A. Carter, Q. M.

S. E. Carmichael, Chaplain.

S. A. Carter, Adjutant.

W. J. Stewart, Officer of the day.

Jasper Marsh, Officer of the Guard.

SHELDON.

Sheldon started when the Sioux City and St. Paul railway (now the C., St. P. & O.) reached the town site. This was July 3, 1872, and the surveyors had previously, in the early summer laid out the town. On this day the construction train, laying the rails, coming from the north was there, and soon passed on to the southwest, where other villages were soon to spring into existence. The town was laid out by the land department of the Sioux City and St. Paul railway company, and was named after Israel Sheldon who was one of the stockholders, and who was a resident of New York City. Soon as the road reached here, it was but a few days after, when carloads of lumber arrived, and the first building, was soon in process of construction. On the 4th day of July, the day following the incoming construction train, a celebration was held on the townsite. The coming celebration had been talked of for several weeks, so that the settlers, what few there were in western O'Brien and eastern Sioux, looked forward to it with feelings not only of pleasure, but also of curiosity, as this was the first time an occasion had offered itself to get together, and look over, each for himself, the manner of people we were. The day was cold and raw, overcoats were decidedly comfortable, but the lacking of warmth and the sunshine, was fully made up by the ardor of tender feeling, among the settlers, and the appearance of the occasion was that of a family gathering, whose members had been absent and scattered for years. Each had brought a basket well laden with eatables, a table was constructed with plank borrowed from the construction train, and when dinner

was prepared, it was a feast fit for the Gods, and the wonder was where it all came from.

"The very recollection of them puddin's 'nd them pies
Brings a yearnin' to my buzzum 'nd the water to my eyes."

There was nothing of the usual Fourth of July celebration, fire crackers were conspicuously absent; there was nothing of a pyrotechnic nature, and the early Colonial days seemed for the time forgotten and lost, in the early days of western O'Brien. An organ had been provided, and under a cover consisting of poles and horse blankets, there were some exercises, consisting of music, reading the Declaration by C. S. Stewart, and an oration by ex-Gov. Miller of Minnesota. There were also speeches by Thomas Robinson, and others.



L. W. FAIRBANKS.

The first train for transportation brought in several car loads of lumber, the company bringing their own for a depot building, which was at once erected, and is now the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha freight depot. Highly of Storm Lake was the first to commence the construction of a building, which was completed early in July, and was used for a saloon. This building stood on the west side of block 8, and was burned about two years ago. The next building erected was by H. C. Lane for a lumber office; Mr. Lane started the first lumber yard, and had his material here about the 10th of July of that year. S. S. Bradley a few days after this, also put in a lumber yard, and James Wykoff followed with the third lumber yard about the middle of the month. The next building was put up for a general store by W. A.

Fife, was completed the latter part of July, and at once stocked with goods. The carpenter work on this building was done by Dan McKay, Joseph Walker & Son, and Leroy Hackett. The next building was put up by B. E. Bushnell for a hardware store. The Fife building stood upon the ground now occupied by the west end of Sheldon bank, or upon the next lot west, this building was burned in the fire of 1886. The Bushnell building is now owned and occupied by Henry Mandershied as a billiard room. The next building was by D. A. W. Perkins for a law office; this was soon followed by a warehouse erected by Benj. Jones. Mr. Jones also soon after put up a residence building which he still occupies with his family, but he has considerably enlarged it since its erection. Several other buildings were put up during that fall, among which was an office for the Sheldon Mail, also a building by H. C. Lane which Geo. Colcord occupied for a drug store, and a residence building by James Wykoff where he still lives.

In the fall of this year, 1872, A. J. Donavon, purchased the law office building erected by Mr. Perkins, and in it started a store of boots and shoes, also gent's furnishing goods; he advertised himself as the "Live Yankee from Boston." Ed Parkhurst started a coal yard that fall.

The first issue of the Sheldon Mail, was on the 1st day of January, 1873. On this date there was in Sheldon the following persons engaged in business:

M. M. Burns, proprietor Sheldon Hotel.

S. S. Williams, doctor.

D. A. W. Perkins, lawyer.

T. DeLong, restaurant and saloon.

B. F. Luce, blacksmith.

Benj. Jones, grain buyer, also sold flour, feed and coal.

B. E. Bushnell, groceries, boots and shoes, clothing and hardware.

A. J. Donavon, gent's furnishing goods.

H. A. Fife, groceries and dry goods.

E. F. Parkhurst, coal.

And the following lumber yards: H. C. Lane, S. S. Bradley, J. Wykoff. W. C. Butterfield, also did cobbling, and made boots and shoes. At this date, January 1, 1873, Sheldon was six months old, and numbered say thirty inhabitants, and this six months of existance was replete with many incidents and events, which go to make up the social order of a newly organized community. There was a freedom of action, and a seemingly entire absence of all restraint, for society then unsettled, demanded no conditions, and had no rule by which its members were to be governed. All were on a level, and it was a genuine illustration of American democracy, in its simplest form. The people were united in one desire to make a town; they were orderly, agreeable to one another; were not narrowed in selfishness, for there was plenty of room to expand; and there was a bouyancy of feeling, for each felt himself on the the threshold of some important place or position, in the great battle of life.



A. H. COBB.

Christmas night was duly celebrated in Sheldon in 1872, in a building belonging to H. C. Lane. A few came from the country, and all had a merry time. A 4x4 had been prepared with auger holes, and sticks inserted to represent the branches of a tree, and these were hung with presents; they were not costly, but were nevertheless appreciated. The evening closed with a dance, the music furnished by Linn Cook.

The year 1873, was a somewhat progressive one for this new village. Several new business firms were added, and additional residences and business buildings, gave more the ap-

pearance of a town. Of the professional men who established themselves during the year were Barrett and Allen, lawyers, C. Longshore, physician, and J. T. Stearns, real estate. Fred Frank put in a blacksmith shop, C. Smith, a harness shop, Gibbs & Mattocks, a restaurant, Husted Crawford & Co. opened quite an extensive general store, C. S. Stewart & Co., lumber, Nash Bros., farm machinery, Jones & Parkhurt, had become a firm, uniting their business, and Shinski & Gavin opened a store of groceries, provisions and dry goods. H. B. Wyman established himself in the grain business, Husted & Pryor succeeded to the Bushnell grocery and dry goods stock, and called it the "Farmers' Store." The Grange started in 1873 in Sheldon with G. E. Berry, master, E. A. Ward, overseer, and J. McNary, secretary. In January, 1874, there was added, H. S. Palmpatier, steward, S. Brewster, assistant steward, L. Brewster, chaplain, and H. Berry, treasurer. In 1873, J. A. Brown became landlord of the Sheldon hotel. The year 1874 was a reasonably busy one, though the business outlook was discouraging on account of grasshoppers. Fourth of July was celebrated, with J. M. Webb president of the day, who also read the declaration. Gov. Miller delivered the oration. The afternoon was spent in horse-racing, and the evening in dancing. The boys organized a base ball club that summer, and dignified it with the name of Grasshoppers. The following were its members, H. B. Wyman, A. W. Johnson, S. C. Nash, F. T. Piper, F. O. Gibbs, J. C. Elliott, William Strong, G. F. Colcord, and J. S. Crawford. This club had a game with a Primghar nine named the Skyscrapers, the members of which were A. J. Brock, J. Wagoner, Adrian Foster, Charles Edwards, William Slack, C. F. Albright, Robert Tiff, Dick Thomas, and W. H. Willits. The Grasshoppers beat the Skyscrapers thirty-two to six.

The first child born in Sheldon was Inez Wykoff, July 11, 1873.

The first sermon preached on the townsite was by Elder Brasheers, in August, 1872, in the depot.

The first postmaster was D. A. W. Perkins, appointed in July, 1872; who resigned and was succeeded by D. R. Barmore in June, 1874.

In 1874, we had a negro barber by the name of Sidney Dean, and the following read in the form of chronicles at the Sheldon lyceum in 1874, gives Sidney's history here, and also contains some other matters.

BOOK OF CHRONICLES.

CHAPTER I.

And it came to pass in the sixth year in the reign of Ulysses, and in the seventh month of the year, that the unshaven and bearded portion of Sheldon held council among themselves, and said "let us import a barber, yea of the Ethiopian complexion; one that shall be an ornament to the city and an honor to his profession." Now the children of the great city were naturally cleanly, and like to be spruced up in appearance, and the fancy touches of the barber were the only thing wanted to complete the question of toilet. The young ladies had to be waited upon, had to be escorted to the church and taken to the dance, and the aroma of a barber shop was what would incite the maidens to greater tenderness and affection. So a call was made upon the great state of Minnesota for a barber, and behold the call was responded to, and there appeared in Sheldon one Sydney whose surname was Dean.



B. F. BROWN.

CHAPTER II.

Now behold Sydney was of a dark complexion; yea he was black, and to use a vulgar expression of that day, he was as black as the ace of spades; he was of a comely appearance, was healthy and intelligent, and weighed about two hundred pounds, and when Sydney appeared in the city he was received with much gratification, and withal was a darkey of much promise and favor. Behold there was provided for Sydney a shop, one of great dimensions and elaborate proportions, and Sydney's shop stands even until this day, and is occupied by one Seymore, whose surname is Shryock. Now Sydney took possession of the shop, made a display of his kit, and ornamented the walls, and he provided a chair of easy and elastic construction where the young man could sit comfortably while Sydney exercised upon them the duties of his profession. Now behold Sydney was something of a genius and quite a mechanic. He was constantly busy when not engaged upon his customers, in repairing his sidewalk, constructing furniture suited to his apartments, and otherwise benefitting and embellishing the scene of his operations.

CHAPTER III.

Now behold, Sydney prospered, as industrious colored men do. He accumulated riches but like many another was unable to stand prosperity and to resist temptation. He fell to drinking and an intoxicated barber of all other men is to be feared and dreaded, consequently his customers became fewer, his razors duller, and his ebony hand trembled with the results of whiskey. His sidewalk was no longer repaired and improved; no more cuts from the Day's Doings were added to the gorgeous walls of his apartments, in fact it was not long before the prostrate form of Sydney Dean was seen in front of his shop, and the prosperous and mechanical barber was as drunk as a lord. Poor Sydney! Had you lived in these days, when the government of the city reaches out for such as you, the calaboose would laugh outright in opening its doors

to so distinguished a victim, but the city was unorganized then, though the poor colored barber may have suffered everything else, he was not afflicted with the torments of incarceration. Now behold, the young men of the city underwent a change in their feelings toward Sydney; their affection was turned to wrath, and they became determined to punish the miserable unfortunate darkey for his sins, and drive him from their midst. So that, taking the law into their hands they procured a rope—one of sufficient strength and size—and informed the barber that he was to be hung at once without the benefit of clergy, and verily it was to Sydney a terrible revelation. They informed him that he had to pray, and behold, Sydney did pray as well as a drunken man can. He implored his prosecutors for the Lord's sake, Marsa, don't hang this poor nigger, and he wouldn't drink any more. But the boys were determined, the rope was placed around Sydney's neck, thrown over a sign, and the barber nigger drawn up, his legs kicking and dangling in the air. Now behold,



L. U. SHIPLEY.

the only desire on the part of the children of the great city at this time, was to frighten the barber and get rid of him, so that Sydney hung but a few seconds—not long enough to injure him—but just long enough to make him think his time had come at last. Sydney was then lowered to the ground and warned unless he left the city within twenty-four hours,

the hanging would be complete. So thus Sydney departed; shook the dust of the city from his feet. He went to a city called Sioux City in those days, and peddled pies for awhile, and tradition tells no story of him since. And behold, there was no other individual hung in the city from that day to this, although there were many who, no doubt deserved it.

BOOK II.

CHAPTER I.

And it came to pass that the children of the great city of Sheldon at that time, and soon after the exodus of Sydney, said among themselves, let us incorporate; we need a mayor to sit in judgment upon stray hogs and refractory humans. Lo, we have lived these many days, have been astray without municipal protection and municipal authority; and there were some who opposed, who said, "we shall be burdened with taxation, and the machinery of local government will plunge us into innumerable difficulties." But the opposers were few in numbers, and majorities ruled in those days for the people lived under a republic. So the great commissioner, appointed under the seal of O'Brien county, called a meeting, and the people cast their ballots, and enough voted for it to carry it successfully.

CHAPTER II.

Now there were other difficulties arose, new problems stared the people in the face. We must now have a mayor and aldermen, called in those days trustees, and also a recorder. Who shall they be, and upon whom shall we shower the distinguished honor? Now, verily the people at that time were like unto the present day, inasmuch as they differed upon various questions, wrangled over politics as we do now. Every election caused considerable excitement, many words were wasted, and fortunate was the campaign if no blood was spilled, and there was at that time one Cæsar, whose surname was Elliott. Now Cæsar had many friends, who desired that he should be elected to the great office of mayor. And there

was also one Hub whose surname was Wyman, and Hub also had many friends. It was doubtful for some time which would outnumber the other. Both were good men, and the children were excited in their differences of opinion. The election was called to be held in the store of one J. M. whose surname was Stevenson, and there was provided a ballot box, and so few ballots were to be cast, that a ballot box was constructed out of a cigar box, the contents of which had long since vanished in smoke. A hole was made in the cover, and the ballots of



LOUIS PETERSON.

the voters were therein deposited. Each side entered the contest determined to outdo the other, but soon the polls were closed and Hub was declared elected. And there was elected a scribe, called in those early days, one L. F. whose surname was Bennett. L. F. was a man of good repute; he kept a

store, and like other merchants of that day dealt in chattel mortgages, on wagons and other truck. He also often wore nose-glasses similar to those worn by one Calvin whose surname is Hook. And there was also elected to the office of trustee one George whose surname was Boutelle. Now George was a good officer; he was a partner in business with one Benjamin whose surname was McCormack, and known as a democrat and a county supervisor. There was also elected one J. M. whose surname was Stevenson, J. M. was a dealer in flax and farmers' notes. There was also one S. W. whose surname was Harrington and one James whose surname was Wykoff, a dealer in lumber and mechanic liens, and one Charley whose surname was Allen, a lawyer and musician. Now these constituted the great council of the city, and they elected as marshal one George whose surname was Hill, and they instructed George to go about the city, enforce its laws, and gobble each and every one who would not yield complete submission. And they built a dwelling house for offenders, gave George the keys thereof, and called it a calaboose. George did go about and do as he was bidden; he constructed a pound, captured every stray cow or hog caught loafing around the city. Sheet iron chimneys no longer decorated the dwellings of the people and a grade of soberness was established, so that the exact number of glasses of beer one could or ought to take, and not get tight, were known to a moral certainty. In short Sheldon was a city in every sense of the word. Much more of its history and progress will be recorded hereafter."

FIRST WEDDING.

The first marriage in the city was in the first year of Sheldon's existence when a few had come together, strangers to each other, and each had started his business, in the promising and prospective city. H. C. Lane, then a justice of the peace gave out word, that the first couple in town offering themselves to be united in marriage, he would perform the ceremony for nothing and give them a banquet. The an-

nouncement had not been long out when Tom DeLong and Samantha Jones informed the Squire they were ready. Jim Wykoff and Deacon Bradley were notified to make preparation. Bro. Thomas Robinson boiled a ham, and Squire Lane then a bachelor, hunted up a ceremonial form to be used on the occasion. A room in the Sheldon hotel then just completed, was named as the place for the event, and on the day fixed the few who were here then, dressed in their store clothes, gathered to celebrate the first marriage in the town. Deacon Bradley called the meeting to order, and announced, that as there was no clergyman present, prayer would be dispensed with, but at the close he would pronounce the benediction. Tom was re-

quested to stand up alongside of the blushing Samantha, who was backward and diffident, but was assured by the Deacon that marriage was not a failure, and that she would be all right. When they were requested to join hands, Samantha in her excitement, seized the Deacon's, but the Deacon quietly placed it where it belonged, and Squire Lane



DR. W. R. BROCK.

proceeded with the usual ceremony that made them man and wife. The ceremony over, all kissed the bride, spent the evening in congratulations and ham sandwiches, and adjourned. Tom and Samantha soon wandered away, from the land of grasshoppers, and they may be living with a family around them, or they may be dead, but at any rate, they were the first couple married in Sheldon.

In 1876, several meetings were held at Sheldon to organize what was called the Sheldon, Beloit and Dakota railroad com-

pany. Officers were elected, and the scheme attained some newspaper notoriety, but it resulted in nothing but wind, and its name and intentions soon passed away. Some people also then were moving for a grist mill, and quite a controversy was started in the "Mail," under the head of Grist Mill vs. Church. The church party however labored on, until sufficient funds were subscribed, and the contract was let to Joseph Walker for \$1,338. The building was completed in December, 1875, and was soon after dedicated.

Application was made for incorporation in March, 1875, and the following persons were appointed as commissioners to call an election for the purpose of voting for or against; D. R. Barnore, A. W. Husted, J. C. Elliott, J. A. Brown, and Benjamin Jones. The election was held April 19, 1875, but incorporation was defeated. In March, 1876, another move was made for incorporation, and other commissioners appointed, who ordered an election to be held March 25, 1876. The result of the election was forty-nine in favor of incorporation, and eleven against. Notice was then given that the first election for a mayor, recorder and five trustees, would be held at the office of J. Wykoff on the first day of May, 1876. There was considerable excitement over this first election, and while there was no bitterness, it still was an energetic contest. There were two candidates for mayor, H. B. Wyman and J. C. Elliott. Wyman received 46, a majority of 7 over Elliott. L. F. Bennett was elected recorder over Husted, and of the councilmen there were elected J. M. Stevenson, J. Wykoff, Scott Harrington, Geo. Boutelle, and Charley Allen. The first appointed officers of the town by the council, were marshal, George Hill; street commissioner, E. F. Parkhurst; treasurer, A. W. Husted; assessor, William Strong.

Many and varied were the entertainments in Sheldon at an early day, Deacon Bradly was not only deacon but constable; he passed the contribution box on Sunday, and served the processes of the justice on week days. Soon

after the saloon was opened, the proprietor who lived at Storm Lake made a visit to his family for a day. He left the key with one of the boys in order that his patrons might be accommodated in his absence; the new proprietor being of a generous spirit, and caring little for the consequences, opened up, and extended a general invitation for all to come in and partake, the result of which was that when Highly, (the owner), returned, not a cigar was left in the house, and not a drop of anything to drink, indeed, every chair, and every table in the house was smashed to smithereens. Imagine the astonishment of the proprietor when he returned, but as he was a violator of the law himself, his mouth was closed; but he soon replenished and started in again with a new stock.

For many years Sheldon had for one of its citizens a colored man by the name of John Brown. John was a jack-of-all-trades, was quick, smart and a money maker, though he had the reputed weakness of his race in taking that which did not belong to him. He had a white woman for a wife and a white son-in-law of much respectability. John died on Christmas eve, 1887, in Wisconsin, and the old Sheldon settlers were considerably attached to him.

At one time a saloon keeper by the name of Sacket was arrested before Sam H. Ladd, justice of the peace, for a violation of the law. For want of prosecution the case was dismissed. Two young men, Frank Nash and T. J. Steele, then students at law in town, thought they would take up the



G. A. GIBSON.

cudgel, and trot Sacket over the race of another prosecution. The case was set for a certain day and hour in the town hall, now the engine house. The justice was there, the students who were prosecuting, and the room full of spectators. The attorney for the defendant had secured the services of the negro John Brown, and had instructed him to get an old satchel, or valise, fill it with old almanacs and such like literature, and appear at a certain time, about when the trial would commence.

Defendant's attorney notified the court that he had an associate, who would soon arrive, and the proceedings accordingly awaited his coming. Soon the door opened, and in marched the negro assistant; laying his satchel on the table, the flaps flew open, and the almanacs fell out on the table. Dan McKay, who was then marshal, obtained a chair for Mr. Brown, and seated at the side of defendant's attorney, the two were busy looking over law books, and the papers in the case, and after about fifteen minutes occupied in this, defendant's attorney stated to the court, that he obtained the services of John Brown at considerable expense, begged the court's pardon for using so much time in acquainting Mr. Brown with the facts, but that they were now ready to proceed. The negro murmured something about the white trash on the other side, when the two law students grabbed their hats and fled with much precipitation from the court room.

The negro then arose and said to the court, "I move you sar that this ere case be set out, and absquatulated like dem lawyers are" and the case was again dismissed.

In July, 1876, there was quite an Indian scare coming from Sioux County, where the report had reached them, that a part of the Sioux tribe were coming, and were pillaging and murdering as they went along. Sheldon hotels and private houses were filled with families who had fled their farms, and for about a week many were in fear of their lives. It turned out however that the fright grew out of the fact that a large number of Indians had crossed Sioux county on their way to Pipe-

stone, where they made a yearly pilgrimage, and imagination and a natural fear of the red man had done the rest.

In January, 1877, Sheldon had a population of 350, and the Sheldon Mail at that time estimated the 1876 improvements of private parties at \$8,950, and the improvements in the town in the way of sidewalks and other improvements at \$10,000. In March, 1877, there was held Sheldon's second municipal election, with the following result:

Mayor	H. B. Wyman
Councilmen	G. H. Boutelle, Charley
Allen, A. B. Nash, D. A. W. Perkins and J. Wykoff	
Recorder	L. F. Bennett
Treasurer	H. B. Wyman
City Marshal	Geo. Hill
Street Commissioner	E. F. Parkhurst

Sheldon seemed to grow in periodical strides, never was boomed in the western sense of booming towns, and did not



EARLY STREET SCENE, SHELDON.

seem to grow much except when the building era came along. Of course in the seventies the grasshoppers kept it back, but about every three years during the seventies, it would take a start whereby many buildings were erected, and its population increased. Since its early days and the first ten years of its growth it has increased steadily each year.

On December 11, 1893, the old Husted & Bushnell frame building standing where the Messer & Dean brick now stands, was burned. To the old settler it was something more than a mere conflagration. It seemed sort of a sacriligious destruction; it stirred the memories of other days, and excited a feeling, akin to that which would stir the heart of a Buddhist, should a hoard of vandals seize upon, and lay in waste his sacred temple. The old building in a commercial and a business sense, was not attractive, either in its appearance or in its architecture, and the new comers no doubt felt that it was no loss to the city, but to the early resident of Sheldon, it was an old friend, a landmark, one of the first structures, that at the time of its erection looked down upon only a few small and unpretentious buildings. The building was erected in 1873, and was put up jointly by Lyman Husted and B. E. Bushnell. The carpenter work was done by Le Roy Hacket and William Hecker, but the building was extended in length several years after it was first built. Mr. Husted, under the firm name of L. Husted & Son, opened up in the corner building with a general stock of merchandise, and Mr. Bushnell in the east part a stock of hardware. Since then in its occupation, it has undergone many changes, and its occupants are scattered into other parts of the country, while some have gone over the silent river. The room occupied in the second story of the west part of the building, was once used by B. F. McCormack as a justice's office, in which there was many a sharp legal contest, and spicy and prolonged trials.

We remember when Henry Shultz was tried there, for keeping open his place of business on Sunday. It was an energetic raid made upon the defendant Shultz, with the forces lead by Rev. Southworth. S. C. Nash was attorney for the prosecution and the writer for the defense. The case was tried three different times, the two first trials resulting in a disagreement of the jury, and at the third trial Shultz was acquitted. After the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty, Justice McCormack said to Mr. Shultz, "You have been

found not guilty by the jury, but I have my own opinion concerning your guilt, and all I have to say to you, is to go and sin no more." The attorney for defendant then arose with much gravity and said, "For fear your Honor may have been induced to make that remark under a feeling of self-righteousness, I desire to call your Honor's attention to another bible proposition, let him who is without sin cast the first stone."

There was a public hall in the Husted building known as Husted's hall, in which there has been many an interesting entertainment. It was

used by several religious denominations for public service before there were any churches in town, when Deacon Bradley was engaged in the highest usefulness of his office, and passed the contribution box. Here was where the grange meetings were held, at one of which Seth Berray introduced a resolution to set apart



GEO. HUDSON.

certain ground in the newly laid out cemetery, for the burial of grangers. The resolution said, "Our members should keep themselves apart, from common humanity, even in their graves." Here is where Lane held his organ meetings, which came near dividing and distracting the settlement. Traveling troupes were not plenty then in this part of the country, it was only a field for amateurs.

We remember when a young man came down from Worthington to deliver a humorous lecture on "The Dollar of Our

Daddies." The hall was filled, as the advertising circular was such a flaming announcement, it attracted a large audience. The lecturer however, was a stupid, incompetent fellow, and the audience became disgusted. They threatened him with a night in the calaboose, with hanging, and every other dire calamity, until the poor fellow upon his knees begged that he might be allowed to depart in peace. He was finally escorted to the Sheldon House, and landed in his room, but he crept out soon after, and took a tie pass for home, no doubt feeling easier when he was outside of the boundaries of the townsite.

There was for several years held in Husted's hall, during one evening of each week, a very successful lyceum, the exercises of which were of very high order. Each night the hall was crowded, and people came for miles to attend this celebrated lyceum. The exercises consisted of music, a paper, essays, declamations and a debate, and occasionally Charley Allen would tune up his fiddle for a dance.

Important questions were discussed and settled, and sometimes the debate became exciting and personal. All, with any capability for debate, took a hand in the discussion, though the disputants were named two on a side the week previous. Words of admonition and of calm philosophy fell from the lips of Bro. Thomas Robinson. Dr. Longshore would occasionally enter the arena with a dynamite of language that was terrific in its effect upon the opposition, and we remember when Barrett, Steve Nash, Geo. L. McKay and Charley Stewart wrestled an entire evening over the Chinese question. The debates were spicy, argumentive and sentimental, and the entire exercises from first to last were attractive and entertaining. The forces of thought played around the walls of the old structure like the whispering of a summer breeze, and seemed to linger after the footsteps of the last departing attendant had died down in the distance. Husted's hall was of a country character, low ceiling and hardly suited for the town when it advanced sufficiently to put on metropolitan airs. It was entirely dispensed with when White's block was erected,

and there was furnished an opera house, which we now use. But the old building, in accordance with the fate of all material things, has fallen, and only its ashes remain. In the place of it, has been erected an elegant structure of brick, and the old building fraught with so many memories and reminiscences, will soon be entirely forgotten.

Thus the old land marks fade away, and when the last old settler shall have reached that mile stone, which marks the end of life's journey, there will be but few of the earlier buildings to be seen on the townsite.

Sheldon has several times suffered by fire, but the most disastrous was that which occurred July 2, 1888. The fire was discovered between two and three o'clock in the morning, and first broke out in the hay loft of a livery stable on the



W. W. CARR.

west side of Third avenue, and burned several buildings in the block. Its origin has never been fully known, but it was supposed to be the work of an incendiary. There was burned fifteen frame buildings, and the estimated loss was \$20,000.

Upon the ashes of this conflagration was erected substantial brick buildings, which are illustrated on another page of this book.

CHURCHES AND CHURCH SOCIETIES.

Sheldon is well supplied with religious denominations, and under our form of government, one can worship according to the dictates of his own conscience. The first church society

was the Methodist, which held services at the house of D. McKay before the town started, afterwards at the depot, now the freight depot of the C., St. P., M. & O. R. R. Co. Not long after the starting of the town, a church building was erected, and now they have a very comfortable, and commodious building. The present pastor is Rev. A. S. Cochran.

The Congregational society was organized in 1872, at the house of M. G. McClellan, with only six members present. Rev. H. D. Wiard and wife, W. C. Butterfield and wife, and M. G. McClellan and wife. The church building was completed in 1875, and the parsonage built in 1884. Rev. J. M. Cummings is the present pastor.

The Christian church was not an early organization in the city. They have no church building, but have already laid the foundation for one.

The Christian Science people meet regularly in a room in the Empire block.

The Baptist society was organized some years ago, and they erected a very neat church building. The present pastor is Rev. John Pierson.

W. E. Glanville who is among the illustrations in this book, was its pastor quite a number of years.

The Catholic church was organized at an early day, and now have a very commodious church building. Its present pastor is Rev. Father P. F. Farrelly, a very profound scholar, and a christian gentleman.

The Episcopal denomination have a church building here, but no services. The members of this denomination here are so few in number, that the burden of supporting it, is too much for the number.

There is considerable of liberal element in religion at Sheldon, which is represented by the Universalists and Unitarians. There has been Unitarian preaching in the city, and the Universalists are now organizing a society.

The first band organized in Sheldon, was in March, 1876, composed of Charley Allen, J. M. Stevenson, D. R. Barmore,

G. H. Hardell, W. C. Butterfield, F. N. Derby, G. L. McKay and F. T. Piper.

The first fire in Sheldon was a saloon building, owned by Mrs. Henry Schultz, in 1882. It was situated on Eleventh street.

Sheldon for a while had a very successful fair, it was a district fair of the four northwest counties, but several years ago the association went out of business. The first Sheldon business man who arrived on the train, was H. C. Lane who came July 9, 1872, and as elsewhere mentioned, at once established a lumber yard. Mr. Lane has been a prominent citizen of Sheldon now for these twenty-five years, and a very successful business man, and of unquestioned integrity.

Benj. Jones, also mentioned, has been here for a quarter century, and until a few years ago an active business man. He has been prominent in the county, and several times on the board of supervisors. He has now retired, and takes the world easy with plenty upon which to enjoy life's comforts and luxuries. His good wife has always been ready in sickness or distress, and her ministrations of sympathy and aid to the sick and unfortunate, go along with the history of the city. The daughter Maggie, a beautiful girl, married Henry Egert several years ago, Nellie is one of the prominent teachers of our city school, who ranks high in her profession, and has the air of a lady of culture and refinement. Frank was born in Sheldon, and for him was named Franklin township.



FRANK T. PIPER.

He is now taking a medical course in Chicago, and before many years, we shall hear of Dr. Frank Jones. The family good sense and ambition is in him, with which to succeed.

F. T. Piper of the Mail, another old settler of Sheldon, and still with us, came as elsewhere mentioned in 1873, and by industry, economy and close attention to business, has made a complete success financially as a newspaper manager. He was first employed as a printer, but in due course of time became owner and proprietor.

H. B. Wyman, another old settler came also in 1873, and has been one of Sheldon's active business men ever since. Mr. Wyman has held several important offices, was our first mayor, was one term in the legislature, and has been a strong candidate for congress from this district.

James Wykoff, an old settler in Sheldon of 1872, commenced business that year with a lumber yard, and remains with us yet, one of our substantial citizens.

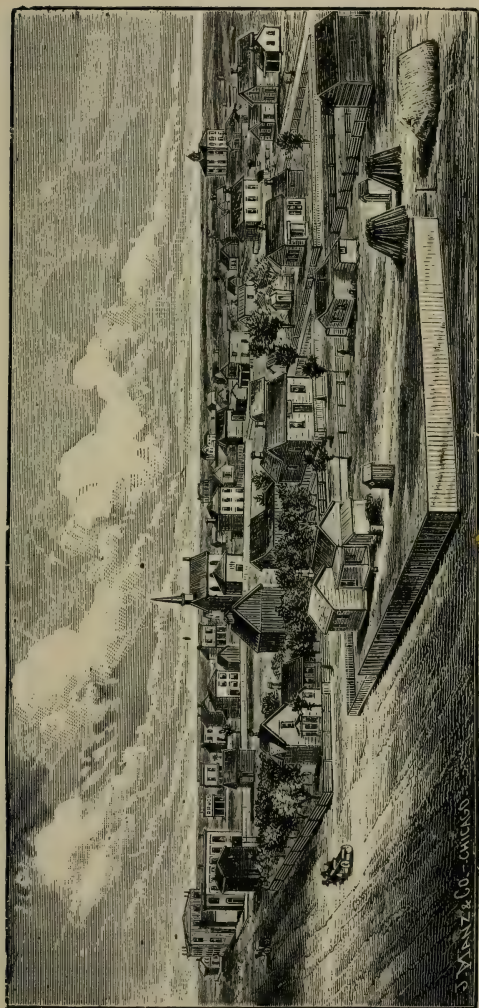
S. S. Bradley, once marshal in Chicago in its early days, has remained with Sheldon since his first coming in 1872. He also opened a lumber yard, but retired from business some years ago. The deacon has had the respect of his fellow citizens in all the years of his residence.

Ed C. Brown was not one of the earliest, but an early settler in Sheldon in the banking business, and is elsewhere mentioned as one of the early settlers of the county. He is an old soldier, has been prominent in politics, and accumulated wealth.

C. F. Butterfield was one of the early business men in Sheldon, and though away from the city awhile, has returned to his former home. Mr. Butterfield and the writer visited the tent of the surveyors when they laid out Sheldon in the spring of 1872. He is well known and respected.

Dan McKay was one of the first in Sheldon, was marshal of the city for some time and moved to Tacoma a few years ago.

Oliver Lias is an old settler of the adjoining county of Sioux, and knew Sheldon at its birth. He has been a member of the city council, and is an old soldier.



SHELDON IN 1876.

Ruel Allen was also one of the first settlers in Sioux county, and while living there commenced trading in Sheldon from the start. He now resides in the city.

Frank Frisbee, with his brothers James and Fred, were early settlers in the county. Frank and James came first in 1871. Fred took a claim in Osceola county, and proved up on this, then moved to O'Brien county. The Frisbee boys lived on their claims and farmed several years, after which they went into business in Sheldon. They have always manifested much public spirit and business enterprise, and all their transactions were always in accordance with the strictest rules of honesty. James died several years ago. He was a blunt, plain-spoken man, but of very upright character. Frank is in the livery business, also president of the First National Bank of Sheldon. Fred is of the firm of Van Patten & Frisbee, dealers in coal, wood, etc. Mr. Van Patten is something of an early settler in Sheldon, and is a prosperous business man, and is also vice president of the First National Bank. The name Frisbee has by oversight been incorrectly spelled "Frisbie" in other parts of this book, something that the writer very much regrets. A son of Frank Frisbee, Fred, is assistant cashier of the First National Bank.

Al. Scott is an old settler of Sheldon, whose face has been familiar to the early settlers for many years. F. O. Gibbs, who has for a long time been a valued employee of the C., M. & St. P. R. R., acting as agent at Sioux Falls, was one of the 1873 business men at Sheldon.

W. L. Ayers opened his drug store in Sheldon at quite an early day. C. Stinson has also been connected with the business interests of Sheldon for many years, and has been a very competent mayor of the city.

Al. Sleeper and his brother W. H. opened a bank here in the seventies. W. H. is still here now, cashier of the Union Bank. Al. Sleeper is in the banking and stock business at Everyly. The Sleepers came from New Jersey, and at about the same time, and from the same place, came W. B. Bowne,



SHELDON WATER TOWER.

Millard Logan, and D. T. White, also Scott Logan. These parties are still here, except Mr. White who is now proprietor of a fashionable hotel east, at the sea shore. Scott Logan is the owner of the Prairie Queen flour mill, and with his son O. E. gives the plant successful management. Millard Logan is of the hardware firm of Smith & Logan. Mr. Bowne takes life easy, in the management of his farms.

We are not attempting to write up business men, but as far as possible, mention such as are of the early settlers of Sheldon.

The Iselin boys, John and Harry, were here at an early day, and built the Scott Logan mill, also built several houses south of the Milwaukee track. They came with considerable means, and branched out in an enterprising way, but at the wrong time. They were free with their money, and were very kind to the poor. John died several years ago. Harry is in New York City. With the Iselin's, came Dr. W. P. Woodcock who practiced here for a long time, but inheriting considerable wealth, retired from practice, and now resides in Spencer. Fred Baudler came here when a boy, with his father Conrad. Conrad run a meat market here for many years, and died here. Fred still continues the same business. Fred Piper came here when a boy, was in the newspaper business several years ago, and is now connected with a school furniture company. L. L. Bassett is quite an old settler in Sheldon, and is still here in business. F. E. Wyman is an early resident, still living here. George Caple came in the seventies, died here not long ago, and his wife with her children still reside in Sheldon. J. D. Bunce had charge of the Seney farm, now owned by Theodore Dockendorf, for many years, coming here at an early day. He still resides here, and is a member of the city council. J. M. Merrill, though residing over the line, was here at quite an early day, and has seen the gradual growth of the city from the start. Eugene Riddell is an early settler, now of Sheldon Trade Co. William Hecker worked on our first buildings, as a carpenter, and is still here. J. C. O'Donnell came here early in the seventies, and opened a blacksmith shop,



E. P. MESSER'S HARDWARE STORE, SHELDON.

was a proprietor of the Sheldon Iron Works for several years, and has recently moved to Deadwood, S. D. Dr. C. Longshore, mentioned elsewhere, was county recorder one term, and came in 1873. G. A. Miller, now in the agricultural business, came in 1872, and after farming for several years, established himself in business at Sheldon. E. A. Ward is an early settler, also the Lias boys, Thomas, Frank and Charley who coming with their parents, lived west of Sheldon, in Sioux county. Their father died several years ago, and the mother still lives in Sheldon, a very matronly woman, much respected. A daughter married Mr. A. Hurd, who with his family still resides in Sheldon. Oliver and his mother reside together. W. E. Van Campen of restaurant notoriety is an early settler, and commenced business here in 1874, his mother Sally was an early settler in Lyon county, she resides in Sheldon. John Van Campen, also an early settler, is farming in Floyd township. The Woods family, Jackson and his wife with their sons John and B. T., also another son, A. D. are early residents. John came first in 1873, took his claim, and farmed it for several years, he now resides in Sheldon, B. T. is of the firm of Woods & Hoskins, he is always a leading factor on public occasions, and a good mechanic, his partner, Mr. Hoskins was an early settler in Osceola county.

H. D. Woods is a railroad conductor on the river division of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad from La-Crosse to St. Paul. Jackson Woods and wife, a highly respected couple, reside in Sheldon.

There are quite a number living in Sheldon who commenced trading in the town when it first started, and who were pioneers in that part of Sioux county then tributary to Sheldon. Among those not already mentioned is Joseph Walker, who worked on Sheldon's first buildings.

Dr. F. W. Cram commenced practice here at an early day, and is still in practice. Dr. O. P. Mabee has also practiced dentistry in Sheldon for many years, the first dentist in the city. Swan Esklund came here in the early days, for some



RESIDENCE OF J. E. VAN PATTEN, SHELDON.

years in the employ of Jones & Parkhurst. J. W. Hicks and Alonzo are early settlers in Sheldon.

Jurgen Renken became a Sheldon resident in the seventies, and is still a resident. He has been a large land-owner, and he coined the phrase expressive of a portion of Lyon county, the "Garden of Eden." Renken has helped many a man struggling to get along, for he is naturally kind of heart and sympathetic, but too often the recipient of his favors has turned out to be an ingrate.

W. N. Strong came to Sheldon in 1874, and has resided here continuously since. He was clerk of court one term, has accumulated considerable property, is a man of most excellent character and business integrity. He is the proprietor of a lumber and coal yard, assisted by his two sons, Sherman and Harmon, energetic young men. A. W. Johnson is an early settler, and has industriously helped build up the city, as a carpenter, from the start. Peter Botette came here in 1876, when Peter, Jr., and Nelson were but lads. Henry Manderseid came in 1876. Charley Dahlman is an early settler, and has been with Fred Baudler many years. Among the illustrations will be seen Postmaster Kearney and his faithful assistant, Fred Bloxham. Mr. Kearney has been identified with the Sheldon postoffice, as clerk and P. M., a great many years. Homer W. Conant is considerable of an early settler, has sold a large number of lots for the townsite company, and has been justice of the peace for several years. He has been prominently identified with the interests of the town for a long time. C. Shaffer is an early settler and a very quiet, substantial citizen.

George Hill was one of our first settlers. He came here a young man from Massachusetts, and in 1869 carried the mail from Cherokee to Sioux City, and was in Cherokee when that city made its start. George has toiled on here in the dray and ice business for over twenty-five years, identified with the city through all its stages of growth, married, and raised his family here, so that, the children were born in the city. His son is in business with him.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, SHELDON.

M. H. Damon, now residing at Worthington, was an early settler of 1872. He toiled through the grasshoppers, saving hired help by plowing corn by moonlight. Ben. Chase with his mother were quite early settlers in Floyd township. William Shultz was a settler of 1872, and moved to Sheldon several years ago, and is one of our best citizens.

Joseph Shinski is one of the early settlers, who was first in trade, and for a while the firm was Shinski & Gavin. Mr. Gavin died several years ago. Mr. Shinski has been mayor of the city and a justice of the peace for several years, and performed the duties of these offices with much ability, has accumulated a large amount of property, and is a man of excellent judgment and good character. He was married after he came here, so that his children, Miss Maud and Miss Margaret, were born here, who are young ladies of refinement and education.

William Gavin is an old resident of the county, came here from Massachusetts and moved to Sheldon several years ago. Pat Dougherty was a year old when his father, John Dougherty, moved to the county. John Dougherty died several years ago.

Officers of the city from its incorporation up to the present time:

1876.

Mayor H. B. Wyman

Trustees..... Charley Allen, Jas. Wykoff,

G. H. Boutelle, J. M. Stevenson, S. W. Harrington

Recorder..... L. F. Bennett

In December, 1876, J. M. Stevenson and S. W. Harrington, on account of intended removal, resigned their offices as trustees and by special election held in that month, A. B. Nash and D. A. W. Perkins were elected to fill the vacancy.

1877.

Mayor H. B. Wyman

Recorder..... L. F. Bennett



PROPOSED OPERA HOUSE, SHELDON.

Trustees	Geo. Boutelle, Charley
Allen, Jas. Wykoff, A. B. Nash, D. A. W. Perkins	
Treasurer	H. Umphrey
Marshal	Geo. Umphrey
Assessor	W. N. Strong
Street Commissioner	John Nugent

1878.

Mayor	H. B. Wyman
Recorder	Ed C. Brown
Trustees	O. M. Barrett, J. J. Harten-
bower, D. A. W. Perkins, Jos. Shinski, J. A. Brown	
Treasurer	H. B. Wyman
Marshal	J. C. O'Donnell
Street Commissioner	Geo. Hill

1879.

Mayor	H. B. Wyman
Recorder	J. J. Hartenbower
Trustees	Geo. H. Boutelle, D. A. W. Perkins, J.
Shinski, Ed C. Brown, O. E. Wagoner, J. A. Brown	
Treasurer	E. F. Parkhurst
Assessor	J. Wykoff
Street Commissioner	Geo. Hill
Marshal	J. C. O'Donnell

1880.

Mayor	J. J. Hartenbower
Recorder	E. J. Woods
Trustees	J. A. Brown, J. Shinski, D. A. W. Perkins, D. S. White
Treasurer	Ed C. Brown
Assessor	J. B. Frisbee
Marshal	Geo. Umphrey
Street Commissioner	Geo. Hill

1881.

Mayor	Jas. Wykoff
Recorder	F. H. Nash



THE PRESENT CITY COUNCIL OF SHELDON.

Trustees	J. A. Brown,
Frank Frisbee, S. C. Nash, J. Shinski, H. S. Iselin	
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Assessor	F. W. Houck
Marshal	D. McKay
Street Commissioner	Geo. Hill

1882.

Mayor	H. B. Wyman
Recorder	F. H. Nash
Trustees	A. McDougal,
John H. Iselin, S. C. Nash, D. S. White, Frank Frisbee	
Treasurer	Jos. Shinski
Assessor	F. W. Houck
Marshal	Fred Frisbee
Street Commissioner	S. Shryock

1883.

Mayor	H. B. Wyman
Recorder	A. W. Husted
Trustees	Frank Frisbee, John
H. Iselin, D. S. White, P. R. Bailey, Geo. E. Berry	
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Assessor	L. S. Stone
Marshal	D. McKay
Street Commissioner	Geo. Terry

1884.

Mayor	J. J. Hartenbower
Recorder	S. H. Ladd
Trustees	C. M. Spencer, F. W. Cram, Geo. Berry,
E. F. Parkhurst, Charles Stinson and Joseph Shinski	
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Assessor	J. E. De Forest
Marshal	Asa Monk
Street Commissioner	Geo. Terry

1885.

Mayor	W. S. Lamb
Recorder	C. C. Birdsell

Trustees	F. W. Cram, C. M. Spencer, Geo. Berry, Jos. Shinski, Homer Conant and E. F. Parkhurst
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Assessor	Jas. Wykoff
Marshal	J. C. O'Donnell
Street Commissioner	A. Charles

1886.

Mayor	L. S. Bassett
Recorder	C. F. Smock
Trustees	C. M. Spencer, H. W. Conant, W. C. Hagy, J. Shinski, Wm. Reynolds and E. F. Parkhurst
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Assessor	Jas. Wykoff
Marshal	Wm. Waters
Street Commissioner	T. E. Newman

1887.

Mayor	C. L. Gurney
Recorder	Geo. L. Vinz
Trustees	W. C. Hagy, H. W. Conant, Wm. Rey- nolds, C. M. Spencer, Geo. Protexter and W. B. Bowne
Treasurer	W. C. Kemper
Assessor	Jas. Wykoff
Marshal	James Chapman
Street Commissioner	A. Charles

1888.

Mayor	Jos. Shinski
Recorder	J. R. Elliott
Trustees	W. W. Reynolds, W. C. Hagy, Geo. Pro- texter, Homer W. Conant, W. E. Bowne and G. Y. Bonus
Treasurer	W. C. Kemper
Assessor	Jas. Wykoff
Marshal	Frank Frisbee
Street Commissioner	A. Charles

1889.

Mayor	J. Shinski
Recorder	J. R. Elliott

Trustees	W. B. Bowne, John Bowley, H. W. Conant, Geo. Protexter, G. Y. Bonus, E. Y. Royce
Treasurer	Charles Stinson
Assessor	Jas. Wykoff
Street Commissioner	James Thomas
Marshal	Frank Frisbee

1890.

Mayor	John Bowley
Recorder	J. R. Elliott
Trustees	W. B. Bowne, H. W. Conant, F. W. Houck, M. C. Howard, E. Y. Royce, J. F. Stone
Treasurer	Charles Stinson
Assessor	Jas. Wykoff
Street Commissioner	James Thomas
Marshal	Frank Frisbee

1891.

Mayor	John Bowley
Recorder	H. W. Conant
Trustees	M. C. Howard, E. G. Corwin, W. B. Bowne, E. Y. Royce, Fred Frisbee
Treasurer	C. Stinson
Assessor	Jas. Wykoff
Street Commissioner	James Thomas
Marshal	Frank Frisbee

1892.

Mayor	John Bowley
Recorder	J. F. Norton
Trustees	John Cool, E. G. Corwin, M. C. Howard, J. F. Stone, W. B. Bowne, Fred Frisbee
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Assessor	Robt. Martin
Street Commissioner	Swan Esklund
Marshal	Frank Frisbee

1893.

Mayor	C. Stinson
Recorder	J. F. Norton

Trustees	H. J. Cram, J. O. Lias, E. G. Corwin, M. C. Howard, Fred Frisbee and J. P. Cool
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Assessor	Robt. Martin
Street Commissioner	Swan Esklund
Marshal	Frank Frisbee

1894.

During the preceding year the incorporated town of Sheldon was changed in its grade to a city of the second class. The law was fully complied with in bringing about this change before the next election in March. The city was divided into three wards, and the following are the first officers elected under the new grade:

Mayor	E. Y. Royce
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Solicitor	D. A. W. Perkins
Assessor	W. E. Higley
Councilmen:	First Ward, W. C. Kemper and L. J. Button; Second Ward, H. J. Cram and H. C. Lane; Third Ward, Wm. Wing and E. A. Boyd
Clerk	P. W. Hall
Street Commissioner	J. W. Hicks
Marshal	Geo. Hudson

1895.

Mayor	E. Y. Royce
Treasurer	W. L. Ayers
Solicitor	D. A. W. Perkins
Assessor	W. E. Higley
Councilmen:	First Ward, L. J. Button and Frank Frisbee; Second Ward, H. J. Cram and W. H. Sleeper; Third Ward, J. D. Bunce and E. A. Boyd
Clerk	P. W. Hall
Street Commissioner	J. W. Hicks
Marshal	Geo. Hudson

1896.

Mayor	P. W. Hall
Treasurer	Fred E. Frisbee
Solicitor ..	Alfred Morton, and after his death G. M. Edmondson
Assessor	W. E. Higley
Councilmen:.....	First Ward, W. H. Myers and Fred Frisbee; Second Ward, D. E. Dean and W. H. Sleeper; Third Ward, J. D. Bunce and Wm. Jenkinson
Clerk	J. W. Marshall
Street Commissioner	B. Chase
Marshal	Geo. Hudson

1897.

Mayor	P. W. Hall
Treasurer	Fred E. Frisbee
Solicitor	Joe Morton
Assessor	W. E. Higley
Councilmen	Same as in 1896
Clerk	J. W. Marshall
Street Commissioner	B. Chase
Marshal	Geo. Hudson

THE BUSINESS MEN OF SHELDON.

Merwin & Blivens, broom factory.
 F. C. Steele, painter and paper hanger.
 Christiana Christianson, dressmaker.
 A. & K. Donovan, milliners.
 C. F. Butterfield, shoe store.
 Havens & Stinson, dry goods.
 T. P. Matthews, groceries.
 B. F. Brown, meat market.
 Waldsmith & Thompson, furniture.
 E. K. Dun Van, physician, (homeopathic).
 E. L. Richards, harness.
 J. H. Hunt & Son, bakery.
 Homer W. Conant, justice of the peace.
 Frank E. Wade, surveyor.

George Hudson, marshal.
Central House, S. Vandergrift, Prop.
F. C. Baudler, meat market.
S. S. Bailey, Racket store.
Dr. O. P. Maybe, dentist.
W. L. Ayers, drugs.
Dr. W. Myers, physician.
Smith & Logan, hardware.
Dr. Milton Daily, physician.
J. W. Marshall, groceries.
Union Telegraph Office, Miss Alice O'Brien, operator.
F. H. George, harness shop.
E. P. Messer, hardware.
S. S. Dean, drugs.
Winslow & Howig, barbers.
Dr. F. J. Gallagher, dentist.
Dr. G. G. Brock, physician.
John Walton, bill poster.
Union Bank, W. H. Sleeper, cashier.
Charles Hoover, barber.
P. Neuroth, billiard hall.
Henry Manderschied, restaurant.
W. W. Bezold, billiard hall.
W. H. Beacom, farm implements.
Sheldon Hotel, Peter McKinnon.
Peavy Elevator, Riddell, Lane & Gillespie.
D. E. Dean, agent, Omaha freight depot.
W. N. Strong, lumber, coal, etc.
Louis Peterson, blacksmith.
Sheldon Bank, Ed. C. Brown, cashier.
Boies & Roth, attorneys.
Postoffice, R. E. Kearney, P. M.
J. W. Tinsley, jeweler.
Frank Wirick, real estate.
J. L. Dyas, justice of the peace.
Geo. Sprague, constable.

John Brash, restaurant.
Alex McKeever, groceries.
Claude Gates, lunch parlor.
L. S. Bassett, clothing.
H. C. Lane, banker.
H. C. Lane, general store.
Smith & Bowers, furniture.
J. F. Stone, furniture.
P. B. Peters, harness.
W. H. Harrison, bicycles and general repairer.
A. H. Cobb, groceries and restaurant.
J. E. Ober, Milwaukee freight depot.
Big 4 Mills, John Vogel, manager.
Illinois Central depot, C. J. Inghram, agent.
Mail Office, F. T. Piper.
Empire Loan and Investment Co., John McCandless,
manager.
John L. McLaury & C. S. McLaury, real estate.
D. B. Roberts, photographer.
J. A. Larson, merchant tailor.
Park Pratt, real estate and loans.
Jewett Bros., wholesale grocers.
Bingenheimer & Tobin, saloon.
N. F. Worth, clothier.
Dr. E. T. Twining, specialist.
J. Cowie, tailor.
J. Shinski, collector and conveyancer.
Frank Cgnar, blacksmith.
Washer & Nugent, farm machinery.
Kemper & Elliott, Sheldon marble works.
Chas. Woodruff, tinner.
H. Vanderbeck, second-hand store.
Geo. A. Miller, machinery.
Frank Coles, shoe shop.
Mack Harris, music store.
N. W. Smead, barber.

D. W. Story, butter and egg depot.
Harrington Bros., jewelers and notions.
Geo. G. McDonald, dry goods, etc.
E. Y. Royce, real estate.
C. Stinson, clother.
Allen & Cullen, lawyers.
H. B. Perry & Son, photographers.
Starrett Bros., general store.
M. A. Manning, groceries.
M. L. Gilbert, Howard hotel.
Shipley & Co., drugs.
M. L. Cheever, restaurant.
J. L. Peck, meat market.
Dixon & Collins, hardware.
F. N. Conley, Sheldon cigar factory.
First National Bank, W. M. Smith, cashier.
Joe Morton, attorney.
H. B. Meis, real estate.
Eagle Office, J. H. Oats, Prop.
McIntire & McFarland, law, land and loans.
Arlington Hotel, F. M. Crocker.
Frank Frisbee, livery.
W. E. VanCampen, lunch room.
A. C. Prentice, shoe and gun repairer.
W. E. Mayer, proprietor of Sheldon laundry.
F. M. Slagle & Co., lumber, coal and grain, F. B. Ford-
ward, Mgr.
John Paul Lumber Co., A. E. Pyncheon, Mgr.
Prairie Queen Mills, Scott Logan.
Union Depot, R. A. Coats, agent.
John Christiany, Sheldon green house.
Michael Thill, lunch counter.
Geo. Barrager, livery.
Thos. Gleason, lunch counter.
H. T. Thompson, farmers elevator.
G. W. Brown, elevator, L. J. Button, Mgr.

Van Patten & Frisbee, wood, coal, etc.
Fiebig Bros., Sheldon bottling works.
R. Lawhead, Mgr. electric light plant.
Geo. Hill, dray.
J. H. Wilson, dray.
E. H. Clark, dray.
Levy H. Ten Eyck, dray.
J. H. Kelley, dray.
Thos. Bloxham, dray.
Dr. F. W. Cram, physician.
F. C. Beam, Sheldon brick yard.
G. A. Gibson, attorney.
G. T. Wellman, attorney.
A. J. Walsmith, attorney.
J. S. Billings, painter and paper hanger.
Hoskin & Woods, blacksmiths.
George Wolsey, shoe store.
Clarence Wellman, insurance.
W. L. Edgerton, stock dealer.

SANBORN.

The town of Sanborn came into life six years after Sheldon started, and five years after Primghar became the county seat; its history comparatively is not of many years, but the march of progress is ever onward, and the push of civilization knows no bounds. The McGregor and Missouri railway company had undertaken to build across the state from McGregor, to intersect with the Sioux City and St. Paul road, in the vicinity of Sheldon. After reaching Algona, seventy-five miles east of Sanborn, either from lack of good management, or money, they stopped, unable to go further, until 1877 the road passed into the hands of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul company, which at once started up its rapid building and extension. The construction train reached the town site about the 1st day of November, 1878. The site was owned by Messrs. Lawler & Stocum, and was by them laid out into

lots. They first laid out about sixty acres, and at that time, the town of Sanborn began its existance. Then, the intention was to name the place Edenville, after the lovely spot which sacred history designates as the home of the first pair, and where "Mother Eve" ate the forbidden fruit. But Edenville was not a satisfactory name to Mr. Stocum, he did not care to shoulder the ever present recollection of that fatal and disobedient occurrence in the name of the town, which would be a constant reminder, so that another was sought, and the present name fixed upon. It was named after Geo. W. Sanborn then superintendent of the western portion of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, who was a man of thorough business qualities, a good railroad man, and in every respect a gentleman. The name itself is of good sound, and now has extensive familiarity, and will go out in reputation as the town itself grows in size and importance. The first building was one hauled from Primghar by L. C. Green as a dwelling house, although about the same time E. R. Wood for Teabout and Valleau, had a building there. The county seat, nestling in the geographical center of the county, gazed with wonder and alarm at the founding of this new city seven miles north, and with prophetic eye saw its future growth and stability. Mr. Green was the first to strike out, and haul his building over the intervening prairie, and reached the townsite on the 12th day of December, 1878, and was soon safely housed in his new location. We may safely say that L. C. Green and E. R. Wood were the first to occupy any building on the townsite, and as both acted about the same time it is hard to tell which was first.

The first building of a town, sort of remains always as a cur-



MRS. HARRY MILLER.

iosity, but perhaps not with Sanborn, as it is still young in years; but after a few generations have come and gone, when a portion of the people lie slumbering in the adjacent graveyard, then early history is revived. Many an eastern city preserves with historic pride its first structure, and carefully protects its moss-grown and decaying columns, as far as possible, from the ravages of time. Sanborn has not reached that period, and many will cross the dark river before it is reached, still Sanborn's first building was eventful, because it was the starting point of the town's existence.

After Mr. Green and Mr. Wood, there soon followed Hiram Algier, who, being a first-class carpenter and builder, well understood that Sanborn was to furnish unlimited labor for mechanics, and consequently he was early on the ground. His dwelling house was the third of that kind of building in point of time, and was soon occupied by himself and family. About the same time L. D. Thomas moved a building on the town site, which belonged to A. G. Willits, which Mr. Thomas used as a carpenter shop, and which constituted the fourth building in Sanborn. This building was occupied by Mr. Thomas until the marriage of Mr. Willits to Miss Cora Thomas, when they settled down to housekeeping in the same building. This was in January, 1878, and during the same month several other buildings were moved from Primghar, in fact there seemed to be a general exodus from the county seat. About this time the Barnes hotel arrived in Sanborn. Mr. Barnes having kept hotel at Primghar, moved the building and continued the same business at Sanborn.

The first store was opened by S. W. Clark. He did for a while have his stock in the depot, and there satisfied the public demands for the necessities of life, until a building, also moved from Primghar, was furnished him. This building was afterward occupied by J. T. Joyce with a grocery stock. About the next building was Paine's store.

In November, 1878, a freight car was placed on the side-track and used as a depot. L. E. Whitman was the first agent,

who lived in the depot building, as also did W. Dunbar, the first roadmaster at this point.

The first church services were held in the residence of L. C. Green. They consisted of the usual Sunday exercises of the Methodist church. There were not many present, in fact the town had not many to be present, but what were there made themselves devotional in psalm singing, and listening to the sermon by Rev. Ira Brashears.

Several other buildings were moved from Primghar to Sanborn that winter. The building erected by Mr. Pumphrey for the use of the county, was moved and is now a dwelling house. E. M. Brady also moved his building, in which was a hardware store.

It must have been a novel sight, especially to an extreme eastern man to have seen the road from the county seat lined with moving buildings, and the prairie dotted with that which is supposed to be permanent and fixed, but it only illustrates the changes which time brings about.

Frank Teabout was early on the ground in Sanborn. He erected several buildings, was a man of much public spirit and business enterprise, and everything had to move that he took hold of. Mr. Teabout died several years ago.

E. M. Brady, one of the earliest settlers, established the first hardware store in town, and is still engaged here in the same business with his brother James. Mr. Brady has been a member of the county board of supervisors, and is at present



HON. I. S. STRUBLE.

a member of the legislature from this district. He is a man of good business qualities, takes an interest in the town and is of good repute among his neighbors.

The first bank in Sanborn, was started in January, 1879, by I. W. Daggett, who had a bank at Primghar, but who moved the whole business over to Sanborn, building and all. The building was placed on the corner of Second and Main streets, but was afterwards vacated by Mr. Daggett, for other and better quarters, and the building is now occupied by some party as a residence. He afterwards formed a partnership with M. H. Freeman, and these two continued the business until later on, they sold out to Harker & Green, Mr. Daggett is still engaged in trade at Sanborn.

J. R. Pumphrey was an early settler, and in January and February, 1879, he moved eight buildings from Primghar to Sanborn. The winter of 1878-79 was not a severe one, it was favorable to outdoor work, but had it been a winter similiar to '80 and '81, but little could have been accomplished in the removal of buildings.

The first mail route between Sanborn and Primghar was established February 1, 1879. L. C. Green was appointed as mail carrier, and like everything else which Lem undertook, the mail was always on time.

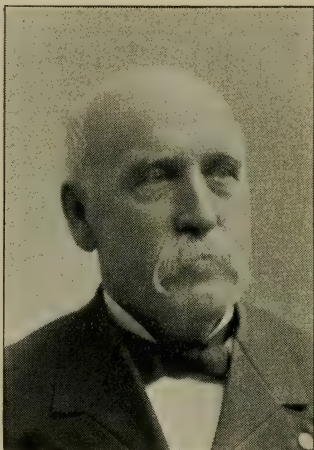
The first butcher shop in Sanborn was opened in February of that same year by Sam Hibbs. He moved his building from the county seat, and what few there were, had an opportunity to buy some beefsteak for their breakfast, and a choice roast for dinner.

Dick Thomas was an early settler in the county, and commenced life in Sanborn as a hotel clerk.

The first scales in town, by which farmers and all others could test the accuracy of the weight of their commodity, were put in by Mr. Daggett, and he himself balanced the beam, and no doubt justly as between buyer and seller. The depot building at this time was used for church services, and was so used until other accommodations were had.

As soon as the government could get around to it, and the people were prepared for it, a postoffice was the order of the day. Ira Brashears was soon appointed postmaster, and the first office was in the bank building of I. W. Daggett.

In March, 1879, the town was still in its infancy. It was only a few months since the railroad reached the townsite, so there was not a very extended growth, or a large display of buildings, but the march of improvement went on, and Sanborn constantly advanced. At this time in March and following, temperance lectures were had every Wednesday evening. People in a new town always turn out to anything that comes along, and in this respect can set a good example to older towns. It is often the case that a negro show, or some monkey performance will attract an audience, while a sensible or an



D. C. ELDREDGE.

intellectual entertainment will not draw at all. This is so with larger places, but with Sanborn as it was in March, 1879, all went to whatever was of a public character. The first Sunday in March, at the depot, there were over sixty persons present, and at the temperance meeting, there was a full attendance.

The first warehouse in town was that of Teabout & Valleau, built in February, 1879, in charge of E. R. Wood, and the same month Mr. Teabout commenced the erection of buildings on his ranch, southwest of town and soon had them completed. During the same month a telephone was established between Clark's store and the depot, so that Warren Walker was not the first telephonist in the county.

On March 8th, 1879, there were shipped twelve carloads of cattle from Sanborn to market. This same month Mat Comes arrived, put up a blacksmith shop, started up in business, and soon after moved his family to town.

At this time Sanborn was still without a school house; but the American people are not long in providing educational facilities; indeed, it is a marked characteristic of the people, first, that the children are properly taught. There being no building at the time owned by the district, a room was rented and used for that term, but that summer, after a tax had been voted, a school house was built, and since then there have been several, until at last the present magnificent structure, which is the pride of the city.

In the spring of 1879 there was commenced the erection of several business and dwelling houses. Primghar having furnished its share on the start, it could not be expected to contribute further. Lumber was now to be had, and the sound of the axe, hammer and saw was heard on every side. The first lumber yard was started by Teabout & Valleau. In that same month was built the Jenkins House, by Mr. Hillyer, who proposed to contest the patronage with Mr. Barnes. This hotel had several different landlords, and is now run and owned by T. D. White.

In the spring of 1879, Sanborn was somewhat afflicted with scarlet fever, but it did not rage extensively, though several families were severely stricken. Messrs. Green, Patch and Hakeman were at this time extensively engaged in the hog business, and paid out many thousands of dollars. This was then, as now, considered a good point by the farmers, and consequently many were marketed here.

Quite an amusing scene was had in May, when Frank Teabout, acting as auctioneer, sold a large amount of truck which had accumulated on his hands. Decorated with his well known white beaver, and at his tongue's end the usual vocabulary of "One dollar, do I hear the two?" he made much fun for the boys and made good sales. During this same month,

also, Mr. Teabout's team ran away, injuring Mrs. Teabout so severely that she never fully recovered.

There was a saloon started in the spring, and the second saloon, with a billiard room attachment, was started by Fittsimons on First street. He did not long continue, however, and must have sniffed the coming amendment afar off.

After the completion of the Jenkins House in 1879, Sanborn then had three hotels; the Sanborn House kept by Barnes, the Jenkins House by Jenkins and the Western Hotel kept by Dan Garroll. This same spring Allen Crossan built a dwelling house.

The 4th of July, 1879, was Sanborn's first celebration, and it went off with much enthusiasm. Preparations were made sufficiently in advance, so that a good time was expected and was had. A procession was formed which marched through what streets they had, and all gathered under a bower prepared for the purpose. Allen Crossan, now of the Hartley Herald, read the Declaration of Independence, and J. L. E. Peck of Primghar delivered the oration. Dinner then followed, which was relished and appreciated by the hungry crowd, after which they had glass ball and egg shooting, horse racing, and a wheel barrow race, winding up with fireworks in the evening.

The first load of grain brought into Sanborn in that year, 1879, was a load of flax on the 19th day of August, and was bought by C. H. Clark.

The first child born in Sanborn was in August of that year,



HON. L. B. RAYMOND.

to R. Hazeldine and wife; the little one should have been donated a town lot. It was a girl, and its parents moved away the same year.

During that year, 1879, the hotels and all other stopping places were crowded, and Sanborn was continually rushed with new comers. In October, 1879, H. A. Sage opened a butcher shop, and the first issue of the Pioneer in Sanborn was on November 7th. In November, the John Richardson building was moved from Primghar onto the main street, and the same month Geo. Valleau arrived in Sanborn, and has been a citizen of the town ever since. Robt. Tift was the first drayman, his brother Frank driving for awhile at first. Mr. Tift remained in the same business until recently.

The latter part of November, 1879, Dr. Charles Smith opened a drug store. He died several years ago. In 1879, the Methodist church was dedicated with J. H. Drake as pastor. The following winter there was not much building, as the weather was very severe but the following spring there was much activity and improvement. David Algyer taught the Sanborn school that winter, was quite popular as a teacher, and David being of a musical turn of mind, and a good singer, he also taught a class in music. In 1879, Geo. Casley came to Sanborn, and in a quiet and unassuming, but industrious way, has continued his barber shop and is still running it.

In the latter part of March, 1879, Sanborn contained 100 inhabitants, and in May following it had doubled to 200. Improvements continued that summer, and the social condition of the town was pleasant and agreeable. A base ball club was organized. E. R. Wood sold a tier of building lots off of his farm north of town. J. C. Drake became salesman in the store of Teabout & Valleau. John Manly opened up a cobbler shop. The bridge north of town across the Floyd was completed. J. L. Green and Geo. Hakeman bought a large amount of stock. The Sanborn house was built this summer by Clark & Hillier and Postmaster Brashers put up a building for the postoffice.

In 1879, Sanborn along with Sheldon was an aspirant for the county seat. The year 1879 closed with a wonderful showing of improvement, in both business houses and residences. Some few changes had occurred and the town was full of strangers looking for locations. The town had doubled in population since a period of six months previously. A Methodist church the first church building in town was completed. The round house was ready for occupancy, business was good, and there



THE WORST OF ALL EXPERIENCES IN A NEW COUNTRY.

was an air of contentment prevailing all over. Cal. Broadstreet, the able attorney now of Sioux City, came in the fall of 1879, and himself and Harley Day, with Harris & Welister of Primghar organized a real estate agency. The first death in Sanborn occurred in January, 1880, being the youngest child Minnie, of W. W. Barnes.

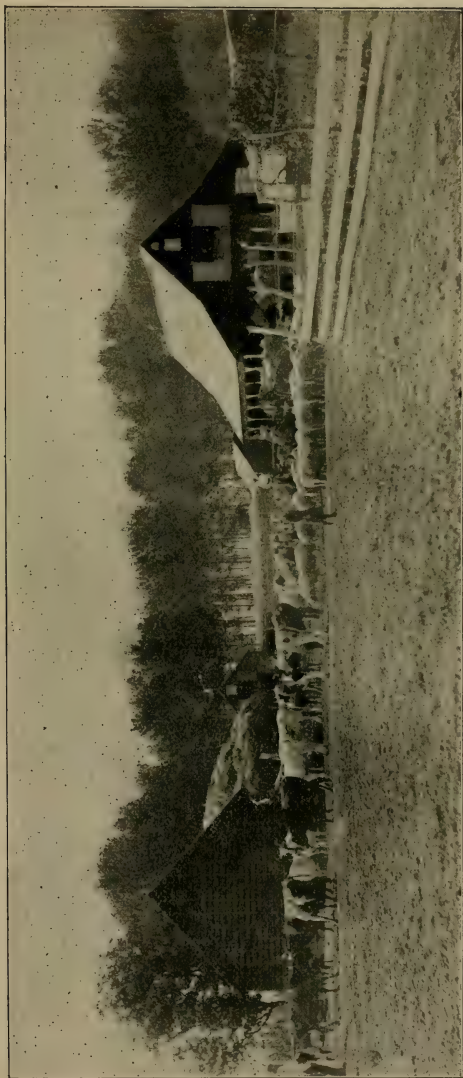
T. D. White made his advent into the city in 1879. He lived on a farm in Floyd township, but exchanged rural life for a mercantile pursuit, and went into the coal and grain bus-

iness. In January, 1880, the round house was completed, and business from that time on constantly increased. Harry Sherman soon had a saloon, and called it the "House of Lords." C. H. Perry opened a drug store, and Harley Day opened a law and insurance office.

In April, 1880, W. C. Green built a residence, in which he still resides, but has since improved and enlarged it with much taste. That same year Mart Shea built a house, and in April Mr. Chas. Vogt landed in Sanborn, and opened a shoe shop. That year the Jenkins house became the "City Hotel" and for awhile was run by Mrs. Preston, who is remembered by all who were here at that time. She was a very strong-minded woman, and everybody had to toe the mark. Some boarder got into a dispute with her upon the question, as to whether his meal ticket had been punched or not. Mrs. Preston was on the negative, and the boarder on the affirmative. The debate was brief. He hurled a chair at his opponent, a very unparliamentary proceeding, but she dodged the chair successfully, and then presented to her adversary the muzzle of a six shooter, upon which he retreated in good order, and the controversy ended.

The summer school of 1880, was taught by Mrs. Wm. Baldwin, who still resides in the county, and was one of its best teachers. The months of April and May, 1880, were very busy ones, as improvements of all kinds were constantly going on. The town at this time had about five hundred inhabitants, and the number was increased by the daily arrival of those who had heard of this rising city.

Claudius Tift started a paint shop, L. W. Barr erected a neat little cottage, and Frank Teabout laid out an addition on the south. M. D. Comes built a dwelling house, John Doyle a store, Lane & Longshore a bank building, the Pioneer building was put up, a residence by James O'Neal and also one by Samuel Hibbs. Work was commenced on the stock yards, and H. A. Sage built himself a residence. Sanborn has always been noted for its gala days, and on March 28, 1880, there



O'BRIEN COUNTY FARM SCENE.

was quite a blow-out. A foot race between Charley Adams and Gus Satterlee for \$12.50, was won by the former after a sharp contest. Pigeon shooting was quite a feature of the day's amusement, and the honors, as well as the spoils, were carried off by William Woodman, a popular locomotive engineer. The day's amusements concluded with a dance in Pioneer hall, music furnished by Messrs. Woodman & Kelley of Spencer, Charles H. Perry, Frank Eastwood and H. Leverage of Sanborn.

George Davids was one of the early business men of Sanborn, in the Sanborn State Bank, with Morton Wilbur as assistant cashier. He sold out in 1886 to Ellis Bros., and Mr. Wilbur then became cashier, and still is. P. Velie is an early settler of the town, and is one of its prominent business men; also, William Roberts opened a hardware store in Sanborn among the first of its merchants, and is still there in mercantile business.

The fore part of 1880 started out with many improvements. Conductor Frank Brainard built himself a residence, and several other residences soon followed. At the beginning of summer, in 1880, Sanborn had a population of 400, and its first circus in July that year called together an enthusiastic and jubilant crowd. In September of that year, J. L. Green and William Harker opened a bank. Mr. Harker died in 1895. He was a noble, manly fellow, kind of heart and a paragon of personal integrity. He was laid away in the Sanborn cemetery, amid the sorrowful tears of his townspeople, and his loss to the community was great.

" His life was gentle; and the elements
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, " This was a man!"

His widow still resides in Sanborn, is president of the bank now, and is probably the only woman president of a bank in the State of Iowa. Mrs. Harker is a very lady-like woman, and is much respected. The bank now is in charge of J. H. Daly, who as a banker is very competent and painstaking, and he has the confidence of his fellow citizens.

In February, 1880, Sanborn made a move for incorporation. Upon petition being presented, the court appointed Mart Shea, L. C. Green, S. W. Clark, A. G. Willits, and Cal. Broadstreet as commissioners, to call an election for voting upon incorporation, for and against. The election was held March 13, 1880, and resulted in forty votes for, and twenty-four against. After the election, April 3, following, was named as the time for the election of officers, which election resulted in the following as given in 1880 which were the first municipal officers of the town. In this connection also we give the names of all officers up to the present time.

1880.

Mayor	E. M. Brady
Recorder	Chas. H. Perry
Councilmen	Mart Shea, S. W. Clark, L. C. Green, H. Algyer, W. F. Jones, Cal. Broadstreet
Marshal and Street Commissioner	T. D. White
Treasurer	Frank Patch

1881.

Mayor	A. J. Devine
Recorder	A. G. Willits
Councilmen	Mart Shea, H. Algyer, S. W. Clark, Cal. Broadstreet, L. C. Green, W. F. Jones
Marshal and Commissioner	Mart Shea
Assessor	C. H. Perry
Treasurer	Frank Patch

1882.

Mayor	Harley Day
Recorder	A. G. Willits
Councilmen	E. M. Brady, John Douglass, L. C. Green, H. Algyer, Cal. Broadstreet, Wm. Harker
Marshal and Street Commissioner	T. D. White
Assessor	A. G. Willits
Treasurer	Frank Patch

1883.

Mayor	F. Teabout
Recorder	A. J. Devine
Councilmen	L. C. Green, P. Velie, Wm. Harker, Cal. Broadstreet, John Douglass, E. M. Brady
Marshal and Street Commissioner	R. M. Boyd
Assessor	A. G. Willits
Treasurer	J. L. Green

1884.

Mayor	D. R. Phelps
Recorder	P. C. Miller
Councilmen	Peter Velie, H. Roden, L. C. Green, S. J. Stokes, Cal. Broadstreet, W. A. Wasson
Marshal and Street Commissioner	R. M. Boyd
Assessor	Geo. H. Peck
Treasurer	J. L. Green
City Attorney	W. D. Boies

1885.

Mayor	A. McNaughton
Recorder	E. R. Wood
Councilmen	P. Velie, L. C. Green, Ira Pool, Cal. Broadstreet, W. A. Wasson, S. J. Stokes
Marshal and Street Commissioner	D. Palen
Assessor	J. A. Stocum
Treasurer	J. L. Green
City Attorney	W. D. Boies

1886.

Mayor	W. D. Boies
Recorder	E. R. Wood
Councilmen	H. E. Correll, J. E. Drake, Ira Pool, W. A. Wasson, C. E. Coleman, and S. J. Stokes
Marshal and Street Commissioner	D. Palen
Assessor	J. A. Stocum
Treasurer	J. L. Green



O'BRIEN COUNTY CATTLE,
ALONG THE CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL RAILROAD.

1887.

Mayor	W. H. Noyes
Recorder	H. D. Chapin
Councilmen	G. O. Wheeler, H. E. Correll,
	C. E. Coleman, Wm. Harker, I. N. Drake, Ira Poole
Marshal and Street Commissioner	D. Palen
Assessor	Geo. M. Rising
Treasurer	J. L. Green
City Attorney	W. D. Boies

1888.

Mayor	N. L. F. Peck
Recorder	H. D. Chapin
Councilmen	G. O. Wheeler, H. E. Correll,
	C. E. Coleman, Wm. Harker, I. N. Drake, D. Moody
Marshal and Street Commissioner	D. Palen
Assessor	Geo. M. Rising
Treasurer	J. L. Green

1889.

Mayor	J. E. Drake
Recorder	H. D. Chapin
Councilmen	H. E. Correll, D. Moody, Wm.
	Harker, J. O. Payne, A. M. Davison, G. O. Wheeler
Marshal and Street Commissioner	S. R. Charlton
Assessor	G. M. Rising
Treasurer	D. W. Wood

1890.

Mayor	J. E. Drake
Recorder	H. D. Chapin
Councilmen	A. M. Davison, Wm. Harker,
	D. Moody, H. E. Correll, J. O. Payne, G. O. Wheeler
Marshal and Street Commissioner	C. DeWitt
Assessor	G. M. Rising
Treasurer	D. M. Wood

1891.

Mayor	D. R. Phelps
Recorder	J. W. Roberts



CUTTING GRAIN,
ALONG THE CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL RAILROAD.

Councilmen J. F. Kerberg, D. Moody, C. L. Van
 Alstine, G. O. Wheeler, Robert Hamilton, H. E. Correll
 Marshal and Street Commissioner R. M. Boyd
 Assessor G. M. Rising
 Treasurer D. W. Wood
 City Attorney J. A. Stocum

1892.

Mayor W. C. Green
 Recorder J. W. Roberts
 Councilmen J. F. Kerberg, D. Palen, R. Hamilton,
 P. McGrath, C. L. Van Alstine, G. O. Wheeler
 Street Commissioner and Marshal R. M. Boyd
 Assessor G. M. Rising
 Treasurer Wm. Harker
 City Attorney C. A. Babcock

1893.

Mayor W. F. Francis
 Recorder E. D. Phelps
 Councilmen E. M. Brady, F. R. Fields, P. McGrath,
 C. L. Van Alstine, J. F. Kerberg, Geo. Peck
 Marshal and Street Commissioner D. Palen
 Assessor Geo. Coleman
 Treasurer Wm. Harker
 City Attorney J. A. Wilcox

1894.

Mayor W. J. Francis
 Recorder F. B. Owens
 Councilmen E. M. Brady, F. R. Fields,
 P. McGrath, Geo. Valleau, C. Jackson, J. F. Martini
 Street Commissioner and Marshal D. Palen
 Assessor Geo. Coleman
 Treasurer Wm. Harker

1895.

Mayor W. J. Francis
 Recorder F. B. Owens
 Councilmen Geo. Valleau, W. W. Johnson,
 A. D. Nelson, G. O. Wheeler, E. M. Brady, C. Jackson



FARM NEAR HARTLEY,
ON THE CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL RAILROAD.

Marshal and Street Commissioner	D. Palen
Assessor	Geo. Coleman
City Attorney	C. A. Babcock

1896.

Mayor	G. O. Wheeler
Recorder	F. B. Owens
Assessor	M. R. Boyd
Councilmen	Geo. Hakeman, C. Jackson
.....	P. McGrath, Geo. Valleau, A. D. Nelson, M. Wilbur
Marshal and Street Commissioner	C. J. McDonald
Treasurer	J. H. Daly

1897.

Mayor	W. J. Francis
Recorder	H. D. Chapin
Councilmen	P. Velie, D. O. Watson,
.....	A. D. Nelson, Geo. Hakeman, P. McGrath, M. Wilbur
Marshal and Street Commissioner	H. M. Shirk
Assessor	M. R. Boyd
Treasurer	J. H. Daly

In 1881, some others who went into business were: C. J. Everhard, furniture store; R. Elliott, tailor shop; Broadstreet & Boies, lawyers; E. F. Bacon & Son, general store; J. E. Drake, jewelry; Walter J. Hovey, lawyer; M. Gans, saloon; A. J. Fitzgerald, clothing store; Parker & Goethel, meat market; Miss Gerlack, millinery; G. W. Platt, general store; B. H. Brashears, harness shop; H. P. Bunce, doctor; Geo. A. Powell, furniture; S. W. Creed, bakery; H. S. Wiser, dry goods; John Selig, restaurant; Dannel Bros., livery; G. W. Davis, blacksmith; Eastwood & Harvey, paint shop; Oshkosh Lumber Co., in charge of G. D. Williams. The changes that come over the business interests of a town in the course of years, are plainly seen in some of the foregoing, compared with the business houses of to-day. Some of these mentioned have gone to their final homes, while others of them are in other parts of the country.

Warren Walker moved from Sanborn to Primghar in 1880.

Upon his removal to Sanborn from Primghar, he was a partner with Mr. Willits in the *Pioneer*, and carried on a land and law business, until 1895, when he removed to Des Moines. Mr. Walker is spoken of elsewhere in the general history as an early settler.

In 1884, Sanborn indulged in the roller skate craze along with the rest of other towns. The rink was talked about for weeks, and was finally opened on the evening of March 19th. There were over two hundred spectators and one hundred and fifty skaters. The Sanborn string band, under the leadership of Prof. J. E. Drake, assisted by Prof. Marcussen and Milt H. Allen, furnished the music in the fore part of the evening, and the Sheldon cornet band the rest of the time. In 1884, Geo. B. Davids, Warren Walker, David Palen and Cal Broadstreet laid out a race course east of town. In 1884, Sanborn had a grand 4th of July celebration. The bad weather somewhat dampened the ardor of the crowd, and the exercises were had under difficulties. There was a street parade, participated in by the Grand Army boys of Sheldon and Sanborn; an imposing representation of the galaxy of states, with Miss Belle Reber as the Goddess of Liberty. Judge C. H. Lewis delivered the oration. Tommy Lane with his fast trotter won the horse race against Fred Harmon; Ed Parkhurst won in the shooting contest; Charley Adams won the foot race, and Steve Jordan caught the greased pig. Everybody was sober, and a magnificent display of fireworks ended the performances. Along in 1884, with Sanborn's other social attractions, they had a baby show. Mrs. Perry's took the prize as the largest, Mrs. Cory's as the smallest, and Mrs. E. M. Brady's as the prettiest.

The Presbyterian church was dedicated Sunday, August 17, 1884. It was under the supervision of Rev. M. Bailey, missionary of Iowa, and the pastor, Rev. W. E. Caldwell, assisted by Rev. M. Bascom. The building cost \$3,300, and was all paid up at the time.

In 1884, Sanborn made the following improvement:

Presbyterian church	\$ 3,500 00
Warren Walker, betterment	500 00
W. A. Wasson	1,200 00
S. C. Bascom, betterment	250 00
J. W. Dick, barn	100 00
Wheeler & Flint, store	3,000 00
G. O. Wheeler, betterment	200 00
C. F. Flint, betterment	200 00
G. S. Morean, betterment	100 00
F. Brainard, betterment	500 00
J. O. Sullivan, betterment	188 00
F. A. Reeves, residence	700 00
G. W. Platt, residence	1,443 00
M. D. Comes, betterment	60 00
L. H. Ide, betterment	300 00
M. J. Draper, betterment	700 00
J. L. Green, betterment	200 00
R. M. Jenks, betterment	200 00
H. Gibbs, betterment	50 00
S. R. Charlton, betterment	200 00
J. R. Pumphrey, betterment	120 00
D. Moody, betterment	50 00
S. W. Whyte, betterment	300 00
Geo. W. Bryan, betterment	400 00
Al. Barrett, betterment	200 00
L. Barr, betterment	150 00
E. M. Brady, betterment	800 00
Mrs. Conkey, betterment	150 00
W. A. Kaynor, betterment	350 00
P. Velie, betterment	100 00
H. Day, betterment	100 00
I. W. Daggett, betterment	150 00
A. R. Mead, betterment	100 00
H. J. Garmon, betterment	75 00
J. W. Robert, betterment	50 00
T. DeLong, blacksmith shop	50 00

Parker & Vyse, betterment	100 00
W. H. Jonston & Co., betterment	50 00
R. Lyons, betterment	100 00
C. McCahn, betterment	100 00
Geo. B. Davids, betterment	500 00
C. D. Ellis, betterment	150 00
Palen, Green & Co., betterment	3,000 00
I. G. Poole, betterment	500 00
H. L. Hazen, betterment	300 00
John Mullady, betterment	200 00
D. R. Phelps, betterment	700 00
T. W. Lane, betterment	250 00
C. F. Owen, betterment	100 00
W. C. Green, barn	409 00
C. Klein, betterment	200 00
Cal. Broadstreet, betterment	100 00
Wm. Woodman, betterment	500 00
Whitten & Wasson, betterment	200 00
W. T. Bowen, betterment	50 00
C. Tiftt, betterment	100 00

Total\$24,783 00



O'BRIEN COUNTY PRAIRIE CHICKENS,
ALONG THE CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL RAILROAD.

The present business interests of Sanborn are as follows:

Theo. Linden, furniture.

Mrs. A. E. Jennings, millinery.

J. H. Wolf, Sanborn Pioneer.

I. W. Daggett, general merchandise.

P. F. Velie, furniture.

Postoffice, J. F. Kerberg, postmaster.

McCullow & Stock, meat market.

W. A. Wasson, general merchandise.

S. C. Skinner, grocer.

B. F. McCormack, Sanborn Sun.

T. A. Roberts, grocer.

John Free, racket store.

W. H. Barker & Co., drugs.

Dr. R. A. Cushman.

G. H. Edgington, dentist.

E. L. Marsh, restaurant.

C. D. Killam & Son, clothing.

State Bank of Sanborn, Ellis Bros., M. Wilbur, cashier.

Robert E. Lee, clothing.

W. H. Barker, jeweler.

Clyde Powell, billiard parlor.

Arthur Lucas, jeweler.

M. C. Cutting, restaurant.

Percy Allen, barber.

J. L. Lones, agricultural implements.

M. P. Finley, saloon.

W. J. Cashen, saloon.

C. C. Bingham, barber.

English Kitchen Hotel, G. H. Boynton, proprietor.

Ezra Armstrong, livery.

Western Hotel, Wm. Weal, proprietor.

Hakeman & Sons, grain, lumber and coal.

J. E. Jackson, city scales.

Todd & Powers, agricultural implements.

W. H. Austin, contractor and builder.

W. W. Johnson, lumber, grain and coal.
W. H. VanAlstine, hotel.
T. D. White, real estate.
Sanborn House, Ed. Helmer, proprietor.
Geo. Casserly & Son, barbers.
Treiewiler & Long, meat market.
D. B. Wright, harness.
Geo. Vogt, restaurant.
Arthur McArdle, shoe shop.
Brady Bros., hardware.
W. W. Johnson, groceries.
W. C. Green, dry goods.
E. T. Langley & Son, lawyers.
C. A. Babcock, lawyer.
J. E. Hopkins, livery.
First National Bank, Mrs. Wm. Harker, president;
James H. Daly, cashier.
Peck & McFarland, hardware.
August Schoel, druggist.
Pirie & Anderson, tailors.
N. Trobridge, barber.
David Larson, shoe shop.
W. H. Sloan & Son, auctioneers.
F. W. Horton, physician.
J. S. Leary, physician.
Joe Wilcox, lawyer.
Wilcox, Boyd & Co., real estate collections, etc.
F. M. Perry, racket store.
G. O. Wheeler, agricultural implements.
Martin Seba, blacksmith.
Hiram Telkamp, agricultural implements.
Telkamp's Hall.
J. A. Golinbaux, blacksmith.
Bender Bros., elevator.
Hunting Elevator company.
Geo. Hakeman, elevator.

Henry Magee & Geo. Coleman, stock.

W. H. Sloan & Son, dray line.

Heman & Gibbs, dray line.

Ezra Armstrong, dray line.

Thos. Bulger, dray line.



O'BRIEN COUNTY ROAD NEAR SANBORN,
ALONG THE CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND ST. PAUL RAILROAD.

CHURCHES.

Catholic, J. P. Martin, priest.

Unitarian, W. L. Utley.

Presbyterian, Chas. Williams.

Methodist, R. K. Calloway.

German Lutheran, F. W. D. Brandt.

CIVIC SOCIETIES.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

J. F. Kerberg, V. C.

Peter Velie, Clerk.

K. OF P. LODGE.

N. H. Green, C. C.

C. C. Algyer, V. C.

A. Vyce, K. P. S.

W. R. C.

Mrs. J. F. Kerberg, President.

Mrs. Mary A. Coleman, Secretary.

G. A. R.

J. M. Vincent, Com.

H. E. Correll, S. V.

Henry Pruin, J. V.

Geo. Hakeman, Q. M.

W. W. Johnson, Adj.

Claudis Tifft, Chaplin.

R. M. Boyd, Officer of the Day.

J. I. Perry, Surgeon.

J. W. Todd, Officer of the Guard.

I. O. O. F. LODGE.

W. H. Austin, N. G.

D. Moody, Secretary.

SANBORN ENCAMPMENT, 'NO, 124, I. O. O. F.

J. A. Wilcox, G. P.

W. H. Austin, Scribe.

ONYX LODGE, A. F. & A. M.

C. F. Owen, W. M.

P. Velie, Secretary.

SAMARIA CHAPTER NO. 41, R. A. M.

J. H. Wolf, H. P.

J. H. Daly, Secretary.

CORAL CHAPTER NO. 41, O. E. S.

Mrs. Anna E. Velie, W. M.

Mrs. Helen Lick, Secretary.

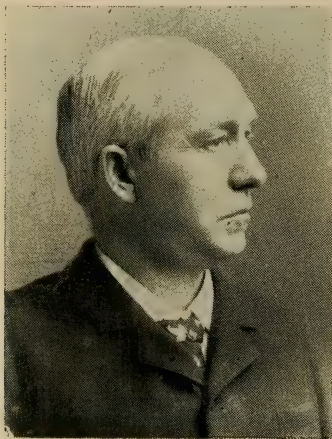
RAILROAD DIVISION.

Sanborn is a railroad division town, of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul. By reason of this, a large amount of money is paid out each month to the employees, and it also gives the town an air of activity and business, which it has.

Railroad men are not niggardly, and never deny themselves the comforts of life, their money goes for what is needed for expenses without begrudging it. Railroad men as a rule are level headed fellows, and brave to a fault, like all other occupations there is now and then a bad one, as there is a black sheep in every flock. In the run of years there are many changes among the men, yet some of them get to become

stand-bys, and their faces are familiar to the traveling public for years.

There are several employees of this company now with them at Sanborn, who were with the company in 1878. We remember Hank George and Dell Case, two passenger conductors, who were princely fellows, and favorites with travelers. Mr. George died some years ago, and Dell Case died in Mason City in 1888, of paralysis of the brain.



HON. GEORGE D. PERKINS,

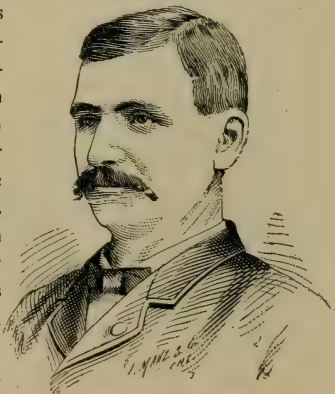
Member of Congress from this District.

Railroad men run many chances of accident, and it always seemed that a locomotive engineer must be a man of considerable nerve and judgment, and a brakeman on a freight, must carry himself with tact and caution, to be successful and free from injury.

One of the most distressing accidents that has occurred at Sanborn was that in February, 1887, resulted in the death of

Hiram Alger, who was employed about the yard. A freight train was made up ready to go east, and stood on the side track with the switch engine at the rear of the train, next to the caboose. Hiram was putting a glass in the door, when an engine, pulling a water car, running with considerable speed, was, by a misplaced switch run on the side track and into the switch engine, which crashed into the caboose, carrying away the platform and cutting off Mr. Alger's legs. Hiram Alger was a noble fellow; highly respected, and his sudden taking off, cast a shade of gloom over the entire community.

A very unfortunate accident occurred near Hartley the first year of the road across the county. John G. Patterson, a very able lawyer of Charles City, employed by the company in securing title to right-of-way, was in 1878 riding in a freight car loaded in each end with ties, when the car left the track, crushing the unfortunate man to death. The present town of Hull in Sioux county, originally named Pattersonville, was named after this distinguished lawyer.



HON. D. D. M'CALLUM.

C. McCann met with a shocking death in 1885. He was engaged in repairing the tank of a locomotive, which was resting on four oil barrels, and while McCann was working underneath, the barrels suddenly gave away, precipitating the huge tank to the ground, crushing the unfortunate man terribly. He was soon extricated, but life was extinct.

Several brakemen running out of Sanborn have been killed, one by the name of Rossan in 1887, near Hartley. He was walking over the train, and made a misstep, falling between

the cars. H. H. Irons lost a hand by falling between the cars near Rock Valley in 1887. Albert A. Gaskell was killed near Hull in 1888, while loosening a brake, he fell between the cars. Jim Fee and Young Oleson, also lost their lives in the performance of duty.

The life of a railroad man is very uncertain. Faithful to a duty which speeds civilization, and forces the settlement of a country, he is ever in the breach of accident, and his life is one of continued risk. When he leaves home in the morning, it is hard to tell whether or not he will ever return. His trip back may be as a mangled corpse borne by loving, sorrowful hands. Poor Jim Fee signalled the departure of his train



L. A. FARNUM.

with a joyous heart. Young, surrounded with a host of friends, the pride of a loving mother, and the object of another's affection soon to be his wife, he left Sanborn with a seemingly long life before him, and many days of joy and usefulness, but in an unguarded moment, when death was least expected, his young life was crushed out in an instant, and his

comrades with their faces washed with tears, gathered all that was mortal, and prepared it for shipment to a sad and heart-broken household. Soon after, the life of another followed in its sacrifice; death, seemingly cruel, opened the door of accident to "one more unfortunate," who fell before the running cars, and was killed in an instant. Little did he expect it, but poor Oleson, in the performance of duty, and with nobody to wish it, went the way of too many engaged in the same occupation. The traveler rides with comfort in the car, while they who speed us on, are ever on the alert for our protection and safety.

The Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R. Co., in point of service equipment and management is one of the best in the country. It is also careful in its demands upon employees for courteous treatment to patrons and an incompetent employee is soon known and discharged. We may be certain, that any railroad man who has been in the employ of this company for any considerable length of time, has the endorsement of a careful scrutiny upon his conduct, efficiency, and a recognition of his merit.

Railroad men are promoted in regular line, and their capabilities, or their lack of merit, are soon well known and understood. Many a new man thinks he knows it all, but he soon learns that he doesn't, and finds that efficiency comes only with years of service, with good judgment to back it up.

One of the oldest men on the line is E. Hoxsie, who runs a passenger east from Sanborn. He has been on the road over twenty-four years, and has been on the Sanborn division, we think, since 1881. He is popular with the traveling public, and his continued service emphasizes his capability.



E. HOXSIE.

The next oldest man running to Sanborn is L. A. Farnum, who commenced running on the Sanborn division we think, in 1880. Farnum is a New Hampshire yankee which can readily be detected. He has little to say, but goes quietly along with what is required of him, and as a railroad man ranks among the best.

George H. Klein also runs east from Sanborn, and has been a railroad man about twenty-two years; he commenced work

on this division as soon as the road reached Chamberlain. Klein stands well with everybody, the company included.

M. M. Burns also runs a passenger east from Sanborn, and has been railroading about twenty-two years, a valued employee. Andy W. Solon, is a passenger conductor east, though in the summer months he runs on the Spirit Lake branch, and the passenger who meets him on the train, need

not be told that he understands his business, for there is plenty of proof in his method of performing it.

The two Brainard boys, E. C. and Frank C. and George N. McCulloch were with the company at Sanborn from the first, indeed Eugene Brainard and McCulloch had a hand in building the road itself, while Frank at the same time was running a freight. These three

commenced about the same time running passenger trains, we think in 1880, Eugene and McCulloch now running east, and Frank west to Mitchell. There is one thing that George McCulloch can do to perfection, and that is run a gravel train crew, everything moves along lively, and there is no back talk, and as a passenger conductor, there is none more pleasant on the road. The Brainard boys are thorough railroad men, and gentlemen in every respect, they say but little to anybody, but they look out for the interests of the company, and the comfort and convenience of the traveling public.

George W. Bryan has been a railroad man about twenty years, and now runs a passenger west to Mitchell, and it seems



A. D. NELSON.

to us that while on duty, that he doesn't think of anything else but running that train, with an eye to the safe transportation of every passenger and his luggage.

Charles E. Foote has been on the road fourteen years, and now runs the mixed train west. We remember Foote when he was principal of the public school at Sanborn, and afterwards when admitted to the bar in Winneshiek county, and commenced practice at Sanborn. Fourteen years ago he did the most sensible thing of his life; he closed the door of his law office behind him, and became a railroad brakeman. Life

is a battle, with each to wage his own individual warfare, and when one takes upon himself the burden, and advertises to fight the battles of other people, along with his own, he enters an arena, of some grief, and of much responsibility, and without sufficient compensation. No lawyer yet in O'Brien county has accumulated riches in a strictly-law practice; true, several



C. E. FOOTE.

at the county seat have become well-off by reason of holding office several terms, and of having access to the records which led to profitable investment, but the occupation of a country lawyer, confining himself strictly to practice, is not preferable to railroad employment, and the writer looks upon Charley Foote as a most sensible fellow, for he now occupies a responsible position, and one that he fills with credit to himself, as he is one of the best of railroad men, and liked by all, with no one to damn him for an adverse verdict, nor charge him unjustly with the betrayal of a cause.

The freight conductors are M. J. Haup, who is an old man on the road, Michael McKeever, J. J. Enright, Frank Coolidge, Ed. A. Boyer, Charles M. Briggs, William Stewart, Frank Maynard, John Hasley, C. B. Coleman, L. C. Carroll, H. A. Sampson. Others who have run freights, and in the line of promotion, are Thomas A. Briggs, E. A. Sumner, Walter Mayo, Frank Penrose, R. D. McMillan, E. L. Bradbury and Craig J. Wilson.

The regular trains running west are pulled by engineers, William Woodman and Thomas Manchester. Manchester commenced when he was nineteen years of age, and has been running twenty years, and is considered a most careful, efficient fellow at the throttle, and a prince of good fellows. Mr. Woodman is an older man in the line of service than Manchester is, and everybody who knows Bill Woodman is aware of the fact, that he is not only one of the best citizens, but is also a capable engineer, and a first-class mechanic.

G. H. Kings running the mixed train west, is an old man in the service. He has been with the company a long time, and is a first-class engineer.

There are four passenger engineers running east out of Sanborn. These are George Freeman, Charles Beebe, Henry Baker, and John J. Hughes. These are all old men on the road, Mr. Freeman being the oldest, having run twenty-five years, and we think Mr. Baker the next, and following him Mr. Beebe. Mr. Hughes run out of Sanborn at quite an early day. These men have long since been tried, as the years will show, and are in favor with the company, and known to be competent and faithful.

Freight engineers running east from Sanborn, are Frank Mayo, Charles Woodman, John Brown, James McCormack, John J. Gallagher, Joseph Fulton and John V. Durgin. The oldest men of these mentioned, are Brown, Gallagher and Fulton. Mr. Fulton was running an engine when George McCulloch commenced railroading. They are all good men and good engineers.

There are several extra engineers, Emmett Wentworth, Oscar Merwin, Charles W. Walston, Thomas Helmar and Ed. Hamilton. These are young men on the road, and are firemen when not running an engine.

R. P. Edson is agent and train despatcher at Sanborn, with E. N. Rudloff and M. C. Corbett, assistants. The yardmaster is H. E. Correll. Robert Hamilton has charge of the roundhouse, who has been a railroad man many years. One son is an engineer, running out of Sioux City, and Ed., previously mentioned, is also a son of Robert.

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